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Histadrut asks police to probe payments to Labor

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut yesterday asked police to investigate allegations that Histadrut funds were used to finance various Labor Party activities, including election campaigns.

The Labor Party countered those charges by stating that the current Histadrut leadership is the one that owes Labor millions of shekels.

The debt, Labor spokesman Yoram Dori said, was accumulated over the past six years, and represented election funding that all Histadrut factions received.

Histadrut legal adviser Yaron Kedar and comptroller's office director Dr. Aliza Schloss yesterday gave police evidence indicating illegal transactions and suspicions of criminal offenses.

The findings include nine invoices totaling NIS 765,444 from the Histadrut-owned Mifalei Tarbut Vehinuh company for five election-related projects, and Labor Party debts to the Histadrut of NIS 1.4 million.

The comptroller is now investigating the possible use of Histadrut properties for the primaries.

In addition, the police are already probing Histadrut payments to the Ranir company, which may indicate that Histadrut funds were used for non-Histadrut activities, including the political promotion of certain people or bodies.

Histadrut Treasurer Haim Oron confirmed the existence of a NIS 2 million Histadrut debt to the Labor Party, but said he has to balance that against Labor's other debts to the Histadrut. A Histadrut spokesman said yesterday that the discrepancies between the Histadrut and Labor's figures are being examined.

Earlier this week, Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon accused former Histadrut treasurer Arthur Yisraelovitz and Yisrael Ben-Yehuda of illegal financial transactions before the 1994 Histadrut elections.

The police are now in the midst of investigating the apparent disappearance of NIS 600,000 from the Histadrut coffers last year, and the suspicion that the money was transferred to fictitious companies, or otherwise used for purposes it was not meant for.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin accepts flowers and a 73rd birthday cake from a youth delegation yesterday. US President Bill Clinton sent greetings: "Under your courageous leadership Israel has taken dramatic steps toward a future of peace, prosperity, and true security...You have my support for the bold step you are taking and the admiration and best wishes of the American people."

Shas threatens no-confidence vote over homosexual-bestiality issue

LIAT COLLINS

SHAS threatened yesterday to submit a no-confidence motion over the move by Civil Service Commissioner Yitzhak Galnoor to investigate disciplinary action against Deputy Attorney-General Nahum Rackover for his comments about homosexuals in the Knesset last week.

Shas leader Aryeh Deri told Israel Radio yesterday that the move against Rackover were part of an ongoing attempt to force religious people out of the Justice Ministry.

Rackover had told the Labor and Social Affairs Committee that the logical conclusion of a recent precedent-setting court ruling, that granted spousal privileges to the homosexual partner of an El Al steward, was that someone who had sex with his pet could demand similar benefits for the animal.

Rackover told Israel Television last night that he has no intention of retracting his statements, noting they were not his

personal opinion but reflected the stance of Jewish law. He noted that the Torah, in Leviticus, refers to both homosexual sex and sex with animals as serious transgressions that incur harsh punishments.

Rackover said he has appeared before Knesset committees numerous times to present halachic opinions on various issues. "There have been times that Jewish law was not in consonance with the stand of the Justice Ministry on an issue, yet the Jewish legal opinion was the one that was accepted," he said.

In the Knesset, National Religious Party head MK Ze'evulun Hammer filed an urgent motion for the agenda on the issue.

"Rackover is the victim of a Bolshevik persecution being carried out by the 'knights' of freedom of thought and expression, those who are prepared to come down on anyone who ex-

presses an opinion they don't like," Hammer said. "At this rate [the government] will demand to investigate Moses, Rabbi Akiva, and Maimonides."

Justice Minister David Libai said Galnoor had acted within the realm of his responsibility.

"The Civil Service commissioner apparently believes that the things Prof. Rackover said to the committee regarding the relationship between humans of the same sex and sleeping with animals are not becoming for a public servant. The commissioner emphasizes that a public servant must faithfully present the position of his ministry and not his personal opinions," Libai said.

Libai noted, however, that Rackover had been invited to address the committee as an expert on Jewish law, and not as an official representative of the Justice Ministry.

TA panel alleges TAPAC wrongdoing

THE Tel Aviv Municipality's control committee has recommended that police investigate irregularities in the construction of the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (TAPAC).

At a meeting last night, the committee decided to give its report on the matter to police so it can investigate financial wrongdoings in the Mishkan company and city's illegal transfer of funds to the company.

The committee also decided that members of city council who sit on Mishkan's board of directors should be removed.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo was also criticized in the committee's report, issued two days ago, for ordering the city treasurer to keep transferring funds to the company without getting the necessary approval from various municipal bodies.

The \$45 million center opened in October.

Milo told Israel Television last night that he did not intend to implement the committee's recommendations.

"The committee put the cart before the horse. It's a very complicated report and I would not rush to draw any conclusions about complaints for the police [to investigate], especially concerning people who don't even work at city hall," (Itim)

PM: Report of breakthrough with Syria baseless

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SIGNIFICANT gaps remain between Israel and Syria, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin indicated yesterday, as he criticized much of a CNN report that said a breakthrough in negotiations was occurring.

Rabin said the Syrians may have leaked the report to try to create a favorable environment when Secretary of State Warren Christopher visits both Jerusalem and Damascus next week.

A Syrian Foreign Ministry official said the CNN report was baseless.

"As far as I know, this was a leak from sources close to the Syrians," Rabin told reporters.

Rabin said parts of the report had "some basis, and there were some components with no basis." He said the report was "missing cardinal issues, about which there is so far no resolution between Syria and Israel."

Syria denied the CNN report. "The details included in the CNN report about alleged agreement between Syria and Israel concerning security arrangements in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights are totally untrue and baseless," a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

In December, the military chiefs of both countries met in Washington to discuss key security arrangements for a peace accord, but Syria has refused to renew any direct contact since then, saying Israeli positions are unacceptable. Instead, Syrian Ambassador to the US Walid Moualeem has held talks with Clinton administration officials.

Israeli officials are concerned that, instead of providing any substantive suggestions to move talks ahead, Syria will merely offer Christopher a procedural victory by resuming talks between military commanders.

CNN said Israel and Syria are considering a proposal to demilitarize a 10-km-wide strip between their forces, with an additional three kilometers on either side to be partly demilitarized.

Israeli analysts ridiculed this distance as a basis for Israeli-Syrian demilitarization. Assuming Israel would yield the entire Golan, this proposal would leave a good portion of the 25-kilometer wide Golan militarized.

Dr. Dore Gold, author of a monograph on Golan security arrangements for Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said:

"Both Syria and Israel say any Golan deal would include southern Lebanon. Rabin has said that Israel would leave southern Lebanon six to nine months after the Syrians have disarmed Hizbullah, and the Lebanese Army has successfully taken up Hizbullah's positions."

Studies said: "The distance proposed on CNN is far less than what already exists under the 1974 disengagement agreement."

"Under the '74 accord, there are severe limits on the Syrian offensive ground capability 20 kilometers inside southern Syria, as well as 25 kilometers of limitations on the deployment of surface-to-air missile systems," Gold said. "Israel obtained this while sitting on the Golan. It certainly would not insist upon less if it would have to get off the Heights."

Since it would be surrendering much or all of the Heights to Syria in any deal, Israel wants "asymmetrical" demilitarization and limited-forces zones that would be to its advantage, terms that Damascus has yet to accept.

A second difference between the two countries relates to the early-warning system on Mt. Hermon. In a recent speech, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Israel would not accept a proposal whereby the US took its place on the mountain and relayed intelligence data. Ben-Eliezer indicated Israel would not want to put itself in the position of total reliance on the US for information on Syrian troop movements.

Syria has reportedly rejected any continued Israeli presence on a Syrian Golan.

A third dispute between the two sides regards the cuts in the standing armies. According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, Syria has 12 standing military divisions against three Israeli permanent divisions. Israel relies much more on reserves, making it more vulnerable during the first 48 hours of a surprise attack. Israel would like Syria to restructure its forces to resemble Israel's more, reducing the prospects of a surprise attack.

A fourth difference between the two sides, which officials are confident will be overcome, is Syria's favoring UN troops to ensure the military annex of a peace treaty is observed. Israel wants the US to serve as part of a multinational force that would monitor the agreement.

Both Syria and Israel say any Golan deal would include southern Lebanon. Rabin has said that Israel would leave southern Lebanon six to nine months after the Syrians have disarmed Hizbullah, and the Lebanese Army has successfully taken up Hizbullah's positions.

Netanya man knifes Arab in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

AN unemployed Jewish man from Netanya stabbed and seriously wounded a Palestinian teenager in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday, before being apprehended by police.

The attacker, Nahum Hudeda, 24, apparently attacked Hashem Abu Tiyyin, 19, from the Silwan neighborhood, for nationalistic reasons, police said last night. The suspect told interrogators that he hates Arabs.

There are suspicions that Hudeda was emotionally unstable, police said. He is likely to be remanded and sent for a psychiatric examination today.

Abu Tiyyin was taken with the knife still in his back to Hadasah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

A hospital spokesman said last night that the operation to remove the knife and treat the wound was a success, and that Abu Tiyyin was in good condition.

"Revenge" was the one-word answer Abu Tiyyin gave when asked by reporters why he believed he was attacked. He said he did not know the assailant and had never spoken with him. Police confirmed this.

Hudeda stopped a Border Police patrol atop the Galicia walkway in the Moslem Quarter at about 1 p.m., and began talking with the policemen. The po-



Police investigators take a statement from Hashem Abu Tiyyin minutes after he was stabbed yesterday in Jerusalem's Old City. (AP)

licemen described the conversation as "odd."

Abu Tiyyin and another Palestinian laborer passed by the group, when Hudeda suddenly pulled a knife and stabbed Abu Tiyyin once in the back. Hudeda was arrested immediately, and did not offer any resistance.

Police said the assailant, who

was wearing a kippa, had a record of minor offenses, such as break-ins.

Hudeda told investigators he came to Jerusalem from his home in Netanya in the morning, and went directly to the Western Wall to pray. From there he went to the Galicia walkway and carried out the attack.

Police were braced for the possibility of a revenge attack or demonstrations sparked by the killing. Hundreds of policemen were already stationed in the Old City, in anticipation of possible unrest connected with the Id al-Fitr holiday.

Judy Siegel-Izkovich contributed to this report.

Kabbalist prays for economic upturn

HERB KEINON

this type of prayer gathering means that people are desperate. "It just means they came to the realization that there is no choice but to turn to the Master of the Universe, the One who provides livelihoods."

Those who poked their head into the doorway of the yeshiva were waved in by one of Basri's aides. They were told to light a candle in memory of Rabbi Meir

Baal Hanes and gave their name and their mother's name to a clerk, who passed it on to the rabbi so he could pray on the person's behalf.

Then they were asked to make a donation of NIS 26. "The donation is strictly voluntary," said Yitzhak Basri.

Those unable to attend the service could phone or fax their names in. Basri said that some 6,000 people had done so.

(Continued on Page 2)

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

Division of Women Studies

The public is invited to the "Virginia Sinitow Lecture Series" on the subject of:

Women and Education in the United States in the 19th and 20th Centuries

by Prof. Maxine Seller

The State University of New York at Buffalo

The lecture will be given on Thursday, March 9, 1995, at 18:00 p.m. Visitors Center, Main Building

Woman to Woman - U.S.A./Israel Sponsored by the Virginia Sinitow Fund.

Iran tried to buy nuclear weapons materials from Argentina - official

IRAN tried to buy from Argentina centrifuges, heavy water and other components needed to start a nuclear weapons program, a senior Israeli military official said this week.

The allegation provides some of the strongest backing to date of claims Iran is planning to build a nuclear bomb, which Israeli estimates could be a reality within 10 years.

A diplomat at Argentina's Embassy in Tel Aviv, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed yesterday that "Argentina started some negotiations to sell some type of nuclear products" to Iran eight to 10 years ago.

He said the talks broke off three to four years ago because of the "political situation" - apparently referring to the US-led boycott of Tehran's Islamic fundamentalist regime.

The diplomat would not confirm the Israeli official's claim that Iran actually signed a contract in the past few years with Argentina to buy fuel rods for reactors and then negotiated over the purchase of heavy water, an essential ingredient for a weapons program.

Iran also tried to acquire other components for uranium enrichment, including uranium hexafluoride, the Israeli official said.

Iran's desire to have a do-it-yourself ability in these key areas signaled a military intent, he said.

The official said Iran set up a network of front organizations throughout Europe to buy technology for its nuclear program as well as purchasing other military know-how such as missile systems. Purchases are often made in the name of Sharif and Amir Kabir Universities.

The Defense Industry Organization and the Ministry of Revolutionary Guards are also buyers of technology that could be used in a nuclear weapons program, he said.

"Most of the things have a dual

use. Only a few parts have a more specific purpose, such as centrifuges, which are used to enrich uranium," he said.

Even those designed specifically to enrich uranium could be used to provide fuel for nuclear power plants.

"We have to ask ourselves why Iran needs its own production of heavy water and an enrichment capability when it is provided by the supplier," said the official.

"Taken all together it is quite convincing that Iran has a military project," the official said.

Iran blames US for using tricks, Page 4

Syria on US drug list again Lebanon also named, but still gets aid

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

SYRIA, Iran and Lebanon are among the 29 countries the US classified yesterday as major illicit drug producing or transit countries.

At the same time, Israel was found to be a transit route for heroin and hashish, while neither cultivating nor producing the drugs themselves.

The Israeli government is concerned with the opening of the country's borders due to the peace process, trafficking will be an increasing problem, the State Department's annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report said.

It found that Syria last year expanded cooperation with Lebanon "to eradicate opium poppy and can-

nabis production in the Bekaa [Valley], significantly reducing opium and cannabis cultivation" to less than one metric ton in 1994.

However, the raw opium and cocaine imported into Lebanon for processing and reexport "offsets" the decreased Bekaa production.

In addition, neither Syria nor Lebanon have shut down cocaine or heroin drug production facilities in the two countries, and Syrian military officials continue to personally profit from the Lebanese drug trade, the report found.

"The Bekaa Valley remains a center of international drug production and distribution," the report said. "Shipments of illegal narcotics from the Bekaa Valley find their way to Europe and the US."

Countries found to be major drug producers or transmitters are ineligible for US financial assistance.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said later that President Bill Clinton had signed a "national security certification" for Lebanon and five other countries on the list despite their presence on the illicit drug list. The waiver thus allows the US to grant Lebanon the \$4 million in aid that was contained in the 1994 budget Clinton prepared last month.

Israel to participate in Egyptian trade fare

CAIRO (AP) - Israel will participate in Egypt's annual trade fair for the first time since 1986, when gunmen killed an Israeli Embassy employee and wounded three others as they left the fairgrounds.

Israel will be represented by about 40 companies, mainly in the agricultural field.

"We think it is a very important fair, and it shows how much economic and trade relations have developed," said Yaakov Setty, press officer at the Israeli Embassy.

Egyptian officials say some 40 countries have said they will participate in the fair from March 18 to March 30.

Nine years ago, gunmen from a group calling itself Egypt's Revolution opened fire on a car carrying Israelis who had been working at Israel's pavilion at

fairgrounds. Etti Tal-Or, who worked in the embassy and was the wife of one of two diplomats in the car, was fatally wounded.

According to Setty, Israel had planned to participate in the fair last year but decided to withdraw after the Hebron massacre.

In 1989, Egypt canceled the fair, citing "technical problems." But Israel maintained that Egypt canceled to avoid getting caught between Israel's request to participate and possible wrath from Arab countries opposed to normalizing relations with Israel.

Although Israel is invited this year, there have been no reports of Arab cancellations. Among the Arab states expected to participate are Syria, Libya, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, Egyptian officials say.

Navy source: Lebanon blockade to continue

ALON PINKAS

ISRAELI Navy activity along the coast of south Lebanon and off the ports of Tyre, Sidon, Zaharani, and Damour will continue indefinitely, a senior navy source said yesterday.

The officer said the navy's activity may not be defined as a blockade comparable to those conducted by other navies, nor according to international law.

"However, for all intents and purposes it is a blockade," he said. "We are letting fishing vessels sail out to sea if they comply with our demand to inspect their cargo. We do not shoot to kill anybody when we fire warning shots at a vessel, but I cannot tell you that we are not blocking the access to Lebanese ports."

Meanwhile, hostilities in Lebanon continued yesterday for the 22nd consecutive day. IDF tanks blasted Hizbullah positions north of the security zone in south Lebanon in the Jabel Rafiah area, as well as the village of Milta and olive groves leading to the central sector of the zone.

Lebanese security sources told news agencies that a roadside bomb exploded inside the security zone, seriously wounding a shepherd. The blast occurred near the village of Teir Harfa in the western sector and sources said it was intended for an IDF or South Lebanese Army patrol.

UN peacekeepers driving in the area at the time picked up the wounded man and took him to a UN field hospital in the border town of Nakoura.

A statement, released in Nabatiya, said Hizbullah struck back with mortar rounds from the hills of Iqim al-Tuffah region.

Earlier in the day, an IAF attack helicopter demolished a two-story house under construction suspected of being a Hizbullah hideout.

Lebanon's state-run television also reported that Israeli forces blew up an abandoned house that belonged to the late prime minister Riad Solh near the village of Kfar Tibait on the front line. The IDF would not confirm the report.



OC Military Police Brig-Gen Mordechai Biran yesterday shows Road Safety Administration director Otniel Schneller newly acquired equipment for catching speeding soldiers. (IDF Spokesman)

Arafat: I'm ready to start talking permanent peace

BILL HUTMAN and Itim

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday he is ready to start negotiating a permanent peace settlement with Israel.

"We are ready to start as soon as possible," Arafat told reporters at his Gaza office, referring to talks on a final settlement, which according to the current schedule may be delayed until 1996.

At an impromptu press conference following a meeting with Police Minister Moshe Shahal, Arafat also reiterated his commitment to prevent terror attacks against Israel.

"I promise the Palestinian Authority will do everything possible to prevent attacks on Israeli civilians," Arafat said. "I hope the problems that now hold up the peace process will be solved and we will be able to begin the stages of the peace agreement," he added.

Shahal said the Palestinians and Israelis "raised issues that bother each side. ... There is much importance to this type of meeting between Palestinian and Israeli military and police officers."

Senior Israeli and Palestinian security officers met in Gaza yesterday during Shahal's visit there to present Id al-Fitr holiday greetings to Arafat.

Officials on both sides said afterwards the discussions were general and no concrete agreements were made. However, they emphasized the importance of such meetings by senior Israeli and Palestinian security personnel.

Early yesterday morning, a bomb exploded on the Netzarim road while a joint IDF-Palestinian patrol was in the area. No injuries or damage were caused by the blast. Police sappers were called in to examine the area, and another bomb was found 500 meters from a gas station and detonated. Security personnel closed the road for three hours, until Shahal's entourage arrived.

PA courts will try alleged collaborators

MORE than two dozen suspected Palestinian collaborators will be tried next week in special military courts established by PA chairman Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian justice minister said yesterday.

Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Medeen said the courts would eventually deal with Islamic militants involved in planning or carrying out attacks against Israel, but said no trial dates were set in those cases.

Israeli officials criticized the decision. (AP)

MKs maintain pressure for Golan bill debate

LIAT COLLINS

LABOR MKs Avigdor Kahalani, Emanuel Zissman and Ya'acov Sheffy yesterday stepped up their battle to have their bills aimed at protecting the Golan Heights debated, sending an attorney's letter on the matter to Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss.

Last week, Weiss refused to accept their demand that their bills on territorial withdrawal be debated in the plenum within two weeks, over the objections of their own faction. The three MKs are among five signed on two bills stipulating that territorial withdrawal can only be carried out if approved by 50% of all eligible voters and by 70 MKs.

The letter from lawyer Avner Barak is seen as preparing the ground for a petition on the matter to the High Court of Justice.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman killed in head-on crash

Carla Levkowitz, 41, of Upper Nazareth, was killed, and her two passengers were seriously injured yesterday, when the car she was driving swerved into the path of two oncoming trucks near Ramat Yishai in the Jezreel Valley. Levkowitz's car glanced off the first truck and was crushed by the second. Migdal Ha'emek firefighters had to pry the injured and Levkowitz's body from the wreck. Itim

Israel, Burundi renew ties

Israel and Burundi, a country located in central Africa, renewed full diplomatic relations yesterday after a 22-year break. In the 1960s Israel extended medical assistance to Burundi, a country of 5.6 million people. However, Burundi severed ties with Israel, as did most of black Africa, because of the Yom Kippur War.

Ambassador-designate in Jordan

Shimon Shamir, ambassador-designate to Jordan, arrived yesterday in Amman for consultations with embassy officials ahead of assuming duties.

The Israeli Embassy said Shamir, a professor of Mideast studies at Tel Aviv University, was on an orientation visit. No official meetings were scheduled with Shamir during his one-day stay, said Ahmed Mbeldin, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry. AP

Biran clamps down on demonstrations

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran yesterday issued an order banning "inciteful activity and hostile propaganda" in Judea and Samaria, following recent violent demonstrations. According to the order, any meeting, procession, or protest vigil now requires a permit, which will be approved according to unnamed criteria regarding purpose, venue, time of the event, and number of participants. Itim

Machpela Cave closed to non-Moslems

The Machpela Cave will be open only to Moslem worshippers today, and until 4 p.m. tomorrow for the Id al-Fitr holiday, the Central Command spokesman announced yesterday. Tourists will also be banned from the site during these times.

Court lifts ban on suspected wife-beater

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court lifted the ban on publicizing the name of a Hebrew University philosophy professor, Adi Zemah, who is suspected of wife-beating. His name was revealed last night by the Jerusalem weekly Kol Ha'ir, which had first reported the story. Itim

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 7 of spades, 8 of hearts, 8 of diamonds, and 7 of clubs.

With great sorrow, we announce the death of ITZHAK (JONNY) KERN

The funeral will take place at 12 noon, tomorrow, Friday, March 3, 1995, at Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.

Deeply mourned by:

His wife: Rachel Kern

His sons: Eytan Kern and Family

Doron Kern and Family

His brothers: Hanoch Kern and Family

Dr. Herbert Kern and Family

Sister-in-Law: Shula Choczner and Family

and all family in Israel and abroad

Shiva at 16 Wissotsky St., Tel Aviv.

We deeply mourn the passing of our dear friend

ITZHAK (Jonny) KERN

and extend our deepest condolences to the family.

Jacky Allalouf and Family

The Panel of Airline Representatives in Israel

mourns the passing of

JONNY KERN

Manager of Olympic Airways in Israel

A dear colleague, and veteran in the travel industry

Olympic Airways

deeply mourns the passing of

ITZHAK (Jonny) KERN

The area manager for Israel

The funeral will take place

on Friday,

March 3, 1995

at 12 noon,

at Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.

Kibbutz Hatzor sends its heartfelt condolences to Muriel and all the family on the death of her husband

HAROLD EHRENFELD

The funeral will take place today,

Thursday, March 2, at 4:30 p.m.,

at the cemetery of Kibbutz Hatzor.



Tuesday, October 10. Succot, 1995

Brazauskas apologizes for Lithuania's role in Holocaust



Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas lays a wreath yesterday at the Knesset memorial to the fallen. (Efraim Kilbuck)

LIAT COLLINS

LITHUANIAN President Algirdas Brazauskas yesterday apologized to the Jewish people from the Knesset podium for acts of genocide carried out by Lithuanians during the Holocaust.

In an emotional address, Brazauskas said: "Honorable representatives of the Jewish nation! If I could, I would address you in the words with which you begin every day and repeat thereafter, 'Hear, O Israel.'"

"From this podium, where many heads of state have stood, in the very heart of your history and of your state, I the president of Lithuania, bow my head to the memory of the more than 200,000 Jews of Lithuania who were killed. I ask you for your forgiveness for those Lithuanians who ruthlessly killed, shot, deported, and robbed Jews."

Brazauskas stressed that Lithuanian and Jewish history are "inextricably intertwined."

"The memory of the hundreds of thousands of Jews who lived in Lithuania and of their sufferings does not allow many among my decent countrymen to remain at peace with themselves," he said.

He announced that Lithuania will publicly prosecute war criminals, restore Jewish education, and docu-

ment the history of the war.

"I address you as the president of a reborn Lithuania - a Lithuania which is aware that truth should unite and not divide us, a truth to be constantly and gradually restored by historians in order to prevent the past repeating itself."

He concluded his speech by wishing, "Peace and blessing upon all of you and to the entire people of Israel."

In contravention of regular Knesset procedure, many MKs clapped at the end of the president's speech; but this was no regular session. Likud MK Dov Shilansky, a Lithuanian-born Holocaust survivor, in an unusual and equally emotional response, addressed the Knesset on behalf of the Likud faction, instead of party head Binyamin Netanyahu.

"I speak as a Jew, as a remnant snatched from the great conflagration in which Lithuanian Jewry was consumed," Shilansky said. He recalled watching Lithuanians torture and humiliate the town rabbi and butcher before burying them alive; he told of seeing his friend and classmate as the commander of a death march doing nothing to save him; he spoke of the 13 pits dug in the lovely forest where he had

played as a youth - one meant as his grave.

"Why did this happen to us? Why? Why? I know the answer. We were born Jews. We were a people without a homeland, without terra firma beneath our feet, dependent on the good graces of strangers, unable to defend ourselves."

"When you return to your own country, tell your people that, with your own eyes, you witnessed the

rebirth of the Jewish people, the wonders of its homeland, its spiritual strength," Shilansky urged.

As he stepped down from the podium, MKs embraced him. Former Likud MK Gustav Eliakim Badian, a Romanian-born Holocaust survivor, collapsed in his chair with a suspected heart attack. He was treated by a Knesset doctor and taken to hospital in an intensive care

ambulance.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Brazauskas he was "among friends" and said Israel is prepared to teach and learn from Lithuania. But he accused the Lithuanians of erring by rehabilitating war criminals and called for an investigation into the matter. He also stressed the importance of admitting what happened in the past and fighting Holocaust revisionism.

Lithuania has proof to charge ex-Nazi

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

A LITHUANIAN prosecutor has suggested there is sufficient evidence to prosecute a Massachusetts man of Lithuanian origin for Nazi war crimes.

Deputy Prosecutor-General Aristidas Pestininkas said documents in the possession of the US Department of Justice prove 87-year-old Aleksandras Lileikis to be guilty.

"We are talking of three or four people killed, but that is enough to prove that our compatriot, who now lives in the United States, participated in the genocide against the Jews," Pestininkas was quoted as saying by an Estonian English-language weekly, *The Baltic Independent*. The prosecutor said the evidence originated in Germany.

In a press conference in Jerusalem last night, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas suggested that his deputy prosecutor-general's investigation

would determine whether Lithuania would agree to the US extradition of Lileikis. The four-member Lithuanian investigation will "decide further procedure whether to open a criminal case" against Lileikis, Brazauskas said.

Brazauskas denied that a joint Lithuanian-Israeli commission that he favors establishing would have the authority to decide upon the rescinding of wholesale exonerations of those Lithuanians suspected of killing Jewish countrymen during the Holocaust.

Brazauskas said only the Lithuanian Supreme Court and Prosecutor-General's Office can render such a decision. The Lithuanian president also denied allegations by a commission member that Vilnius denied the panel access to those Lithuanians who are suspected of killing Jews during the Holocaust.

"There is full access to the archives," he declared.

Peaceful haredi demo held at Jaffa site

AN estimated 3,500 haredim arrived yesterday at the disputed Jaffa construction site to protest against what they believe is the desecration of ancient Jewish graves there.

Police blocked the site with barricades and did not allow the haredim to come near the workers. The protesters then moved to another street and gathered behind a fence, where they prayed and gave speeches against the

continuation of excavations at the site.

About 300 policemen were deployed to prevent any disturbances. Police reported that the demonstration went off peacefully.

Jerusalem and Bnei Brak rabbis had notified police of their plans to arrive in the thousands for the protest, and had promised there would be no disturbances. (Itim)

Organizers of capital gay film festival undeterred by protest

BILL HUTMAN

PLANS are moving ahead for the first Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in Jerusalem next week, despite growing opposition in religious circles.

"We have already heard rumors that haredi leaders are planning demonstrations," said Emma Shmir, producer of the festival, due to be held at the Cinematheque.

"Even if we must have police and private guards brought in, we are going to hold this festival," Shmir told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. MK Yitzhak Levy (NRP) reportedly sent an angry letter to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert demanding

the festival be banned on grounds the subject matter is not fit for the public.

Shmir said she is not bothered by the criticism, which was expected.

Many of the 29 films to be shown are premieres, she said, and tickets are being sold in Tel Aviv with the hope people will come to the capital to see the movies.

Ticket sales are going well, she said.

The festival opens next Thursday night with the showing of Canadian director David Cronenberg's 1993 release "M. Butterfly," and continues through Saturday.

Fierce debate in IBA plenum over English, French radio cuts

JACOB DALLAL

THERE was a fiery debate in the plenum of the Israel Broadcasting Authority yesterday over the authority's decision to cut its shortwave English and French broadcasts abroad nearly in half.

IBA recently cut its English broadcasts by three quarters of an hour, to one hour daily, in an effort to save an estimated NIS 1 million in transmission costs each year. French programming suffered a similar cut.

But the decision was met with great opposition by some plenum members. "I'm sure the Palestinian Authority broadcasts more in English than Israel Radio," said Yosef Frankel, who initiated an appeal of the decision. Frankel said he was particularly upset about the cut in the English-language broadcasting, noting that there are 7 million English-speaking Jews living in the Diaspora.

But Israel Radio head Amnon Na-

dav defended the decision, saying that the broadcasts were costly and ineffective. Very few people listen to shortwave radio, he said, and the programming that was cut was simply repeats of news broadcasts from earlier in the day.

IBA Director-General Mordechai Kirschenbaum dismissed the whole matter as "a storm in a teacup," and said the authority was flexible with its broadcasting abroad.

Both Kirschenbaum and Nadav expressed anger that the English radio announcers were appealing to the audience abroad to write to the IBA and demand it return to the original schedule.

"It's one thing to put up a struggle [with the management], but to do bring the argument on air - that's a rebellion," Kirschenbaum said.

He said the English news will now not be broadcast live until an investigation of the matter has been completed.

Bezek staff take sanctions to protest against competition in overseas calls

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK technicians yesterday launched partial sanctions by refusing to repair phone lines. However, an all-out strike threatened for today has been postponed at least until Sunday.

Bezek's 8,000 staffers, who attended workers' assemblies yesterday morning, are protesting against the government's plans to break the company's monopoly on overseas dialing services. The union claims that if other companies are allowed to provide international call services, Bezek will lose money and have to fire 4,000 employees.

Bezek management yesterday said it would dock the pay of workers who did not show up at their jobs, and called on them to return to work immediately.

Union leaders are insisting that a tender for a second international dialing service be postponed for at least six years - "the amount of time that the Electric Corporation has given workers before it is privatized," said one union leader. "We should not be treated any worse than that."

The Communications Ministry, which will soon publish the tender, said there is no reason to change the 1993 government decision to increase competition in telecommunications and allow a private company to provide overseas dialing infrastructure in competition with Bezek.

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Fruit & Vegetables

Oranges, 1kg

1.29

Avocado, 1kg

3.99

Fruit and vegetable prices valid until 4.3.95

The Jerusalem Post

st again
till gets aid

"The Bekas Valley...
of international drug...
and distribution," the...
aid. "Shipments of illegal...
from the Bekas Valley...
way to Europe and the...
countries found to be...
traffickers or transpor...
for US financial assistance...
White House spokesman...
McCarty said later that...
Bill Clinton had signed a...
security contribution" for...
and the other countries on...
despite their presence on...
the drug. "The water this...
of \$5 million between the...
in aid that was contained...
the budget Clinton prepared last...

AN estimated 3,500 haredim arrived yesterday at the disputed Jaffa construction site to protest against what they believe is the desecration of ancient Jewish graves there.

BRIEF

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on demonstrations

used to non-Moslems

suspected wife-beater

Chinese Restaurant

Jerusalem. Tel. 2508

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Mayhem as UN withdraws from Mogadishu airport

AIDAN HARTLEY
MOGADISHU

MAYHEM erupted at Mogadishu's airport yesterday after UN troops abandoned the outer perimeter and hundreds of gunmen and looters invaded, watched by US and Italian marines from beach redoubts.

Somali militias in "technical" cars mounted with mortars and anti-aircraft guns, backed by unarmed UN-trained local police, fired wildly in the air to clear hordes of looters from the former peacekeepers' base.

US and Italian marines dived for cover behind sand dunes as bullets whistled over their heads.

They fired warning shots over the heads of militias but it did not seem as if Somalis were trying to attack them, witnesses

said.

Several grenade or mortar bombs exploded on the southern end of the runway. It was unclear who fired these but Somalis said it could have been other militia gangs angry at not being in on the plunder.

US Super Cobra attack helicopters swooped over the chaotic scene and a "Spectre" AC-130 gunship plane could also be seen circling in the sky.

Events began at dawn, when the rear guard of 1,500 Pakistanis pulled back from the outer walls of the airfield base in a long convoy of tanks and ar-

mored vehicles bound for the sea port.

Somali militias outside the airport gates and local unarmed police inside the airport had been positioned to stop crowds from invading the area.

But the looters scaled the walls and picked their way through deserted warehouses and old troop camps, stealing everything from rations to mattresses.

Militias then entered the airport in "technical" - violating warnings by US forces that they keep them in the streets outside. The militias chased unarmed

looters and their heavy-handed tactics seemed to be effective in clearing people away.

"Take care and come back when we've cleared the area," said one militia at the airport gates.

Seconds later a "technical" behind him let loose with its double-barrelled anti-aircraft gun. The deafening burst scattered crowds but they were back almost immediately, hoping for some way to get past.

Somalis said the militias, destroyers of their country over four years of ethnic feuding, were actually deployed by leaders trying to ensure the peaceful departure of US-led forces. (Reuters)



The Sejm, Poland's lower house of parliament, votes 285-5, with 127 abstentions, to accept Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak's resignation and to give his job to Jozef Oleksy (center bottom), who has been the speaker since 1993. (AP)

Ex-Mexican president's brother held for murder

MEXICO CITY (AP) - The brother of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari was behind bars yesterday, accused of masterminding the assassination of a reformist leader in the ruling PRI party.

The arrest of Raul Salinas de Gortari in connection with the September 28 murder of Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu outside a Mexico City hotel was viewed as a courageous act in a country where family and political ties have long been considered sacred and the powerful immune from prosecution.

"No one is above the law," special prosecutor Pablo Chapa Bezanilla said in announcing the arrest Tuesday.

The arrest may well boost the credibility of Mexico's new president, Ernesto Zedillo, who has been battered by an economic crisis, a rebellion in the south and charges of weak leadership since he took office three months ago.

Suspicion about lagging investigations in the Ruiz Massieu case and in the March 23 murder of PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio in Tijuana have eroded the government's credibility with the public as well as among some investors.

By arresting his predecessor's brother, Zedillo has "shaken a political tradition that was doing much damage to the country," said Sen. Gabriel Jimenez Remus of the opposition National Action Party.

No motive was ever given for the murder of Ruiz Massieu, the No. 2 man in the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI. More than a dozen people, including a lone gunman who confessed to slaying the PRI's secretary-general, were arrested.

But the man federal police accuse of organizing the murder - PRI congressman Manuel Munoz Rocha - is a fugitive and some suspect he too may have been killed.

The special prosecutor said Tuesday that the last place Munoz Rocha visited before vanishing was Raul Salinas' house. After going into hiding, one of two known phone calls he made was to Raul Salinas.

The arrest of Raul Salinas, 48, comes just four days after the attorney general's office announced it had arrested a second gunman in the murder of presidential candidate Colosio. Until his death at a campaign rally in Tijuana, Colosio had been the favorite to succeed Carlos Salinas as president.

With the political vacuum caused by the death, Carlos Salinas then turned to Zedillo as his handpicked PRI candidate. Zedillo, an economist, went on to easily win the presidential contest.

Carlos Salinas, president until December 1, had insisted all along that his government was doing everything it could to investigate both assassinations.

Dudayev government: Humanitarian aid not reaching victims of Chechnya war

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - International aid for victims of the war in Chechnya has all been sold on the black market or seized by the Russian army, Dzhokhar Dudayev's government was quoted yesterday as saying.

"In fact, not a single percent of humanitarian aid reaches Chechnya," Movladi Udugov, director of Dudayev's press service, told the Interfax news agency.

The Chechen Foreign Ministry said the bulk of the aid is sold for profit in the North Caucasus region, and that some aid is piling up outside Chechnya without being distributed.

The Russian government and several international agencies provide aid to refugees who have left Chechnya. Aid inside Chech-

nya has been limited by the severity of fighting in the nearly three-month-old war.

A government official yesterday acknowledged delays in deliveries of humanitarian aid to Chechnya. Mikhail Timoshkin, first deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's consular division, blamed them on organizational problems, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

As Russian troops tighten their ring around Grozny, federal officials maintain they are keeping a close eye on Dudayev and expect to catch him soon. But a top Russian intelligence chief declined Tuesday to predict when Dzhokhar Dudayev might be arrested.

"We are aware - we are often well aware - of Dudayev's loca-

tion," said Lt. Gen. Valentin Sobolev, deputy director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service.

"I have no doubt that we will detain him. When that will happen, I don't know," he said.

Some press accounts have speculated that Russian authorities don't want to capture Dudayev, the focus of their crackdown on the secessionist republic, while continuing to bomb and shell Chechen positions. Numerous journalists have managed to meet with him in Grozny, and he reportedly makes frequent, traceable calls to numbers in Moscow from a satellite phone.

Sobolev, however, cited the problem as Dudayev's heavy per-

sonal security, which he said consists of 10 to 12 bodyguards picked from his own relatives and clan members, plus 200 to 250 troops.

"He is in various places even in the course of one day. He is very well-defended," he said. "He well knows that the price of his life is very high."

Russia's human rights commissioner, Sergei Kovalev, has estimated that more than 24,000 Chechen civilians have died since the war began. A presidential commission said last week that 1,146 Russian servicemen have killed, although liberal lawmaker Mark Feigin told the newspaper Izvestia that the actual figure likely is more than twice that.

Teheran: US using tricks to isolate Iran

TEHERAN (Reuters) - Iran, in apparent reaction to US reports that Teheran had deployed missiles on a Gulf island, said yesterday that Washington was trying to hurt Iran's relations with Gulf Arab neighbors.

Teheran radio said in a commentary "the White House, by using repetitious ploys and attempting to represent Iran as what it calls a threat for the region, is trying to dominate... Iran's relations with states of the Persian Gulf region."

A US general reported the missiles deployment on Tuesday, saying they posed a potential threat to shipping in the straits at the mouth of the Gulf, conduit to more than a quarter of the world's oil trade.

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, did not name the islands where the ageing anti-aircraft weapons were placed. Western military sources said yesterday that they were on Sirri island, 70 kms off the Iranian coast.

Thousands found in Rwandan mass graves

KIGALI, Rwanda (Reuters) - Thousands of decomposed corpses - including opposition party leaders - have been unearthed in Rwandan mass graves, the latest ghastly evidence of last year's genocide, a senior government official said yesterday.

"This is the reality of Rwanda: graves with so many bodies we can only count the skulls," said the Rwanda army's chief political commissar, Colonel Frank Mugambage.

Some 4,500 skulls had been counted so far. The colonel told Reuters the new graves, including that of Frederic Nzumambaho, leader of the Social Democratic Party were first discovered last Friday in the grounds of Kigali's central hospital.

Workmen who went to the hospital on Friday to repair its drainage system initially came across one mass grave but by yesterday up to 20 graves had been dug up.

Mugambage added. Nzumambaho's decomposed body, its skull shattered, was discovered in a hospital refrigerator buried on a vegetable plot near the main hospital complex.

His son Raymond identified the body and told Reuters: "I will give him a dignified burial in a plot reserved for dead ministers."

Alongside Nzumambaho's body were those of his party's vice-president and secretary-general.

The Social Democratic Party was a breakaway faction of the former ruling party led by President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose killing in April last year led to genocide by Hutu troops and militiamen. The party was dominated by the Tutsi minority.

Between 500,000 and a million people, mainly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were massacred between April and July last year.

Russian television director murdered outside home

MOSCOW (AP) - The director of a giant Russian television network was assassinated at the doorstep of his house last night, police said.

Vladislav Listyev, 38, the head of Ostankino television company and a widely popular television journalist, was shot to death when he entered his apartment building, said a duty Moscow police officer.

Health officials said Listyev died on the spot after a bullet pierced his heart.

No further details were immediately available.

The assassination was the most sensational murder in Russia since last October's bomb killing of Dmitry Kholodov, a newspaper reporter who was investigating army corruption. The killers have not been found.

AMERICAN EXPRESS

Cards

March 2, 1995

American Express is very pleased to announce that an agreement was signed with Bank Hapoalim, confirming their appointment as the exclusive issuer of American Express Gold, Personal and Company Cards in Israel.

Under the terms of an independent operator agreement Bank Hapoalim will operate the American Express Card business in Israel and will issue a new Shekel denominated American Express Card.

Bank Hapoalim will take over the responsibility for servicing all merchants accepting the American Express Card in Israel. As a result of the Bank Hapoalim - American Express agreement, the number of merchants accepting American Express Cards in Israel will be significantly expanded which will dramatically enhance the utility of the Card to inbound travelers as well.

Bank Hapoalim is an excellent partner for American Express. They are Israel's largest bank and have a strong commitment to delivering consumer choice and high service quality.

American Express is proud to be associated with Bank Hapoalim in the Israeli market.

James M. Li
James M. Li
President, International Business Development Group

مكتبة النجف

New line of fresh herbs aims for purity

OFF THE SHELF

MARTHA MEISELS

SOME greens are greener than others.

Bosmat, a new brand-name in fresh herbs exclusive to Blue Square Co-op, declares on its label that the line is "free of pesticide residues." The grower does not, however, claim to practice organic farming.

Bosmat Herbs (Tavlini Bosmat) are grown in greenhouses in the Negev, mainly for export to European markets. They will be carried locally by all of Blue Square's Super Co-op supermarkets and some Hyper Co-op branches. The herbs are sold in transparent plastic cylinders, labeled in Hebrew only. In addition to being free of pesticide residues, Bosmat declares that its fresh herbs are also free of insects and disease, in accordance with the standards of the European market.

The Food Service Administration of the Health Ministry confirms that there were some scattered findings last year of high pesticide levels in locally grown herbs and soup greens.

It also confirms there were cases in which Israeli herbs were returned from European markets for excessive pesticide residues.

However, the same source says that the situation has significantly improved lately. The ministry periodically tests samples of herbs and other fresh greens taken both from the fields and from retail shops.

It welcomes the trend toward brand-name recognition in herbs, which will encourage producers to comply with pesticide limits.

The Bosmat line at the Co-op chain will include eight types: chives (*irit* in Hebrew), tarragon, oregano, thyme (*korani*), basil (*basilicum*), mint (*nana*), rosemary (*rosmarin*), and sage (*marva*). At Blue Square Co-op stores, the Bosmat herbs will sell for NIS 3.50 for a cylinder holding 100 to 120 grams.

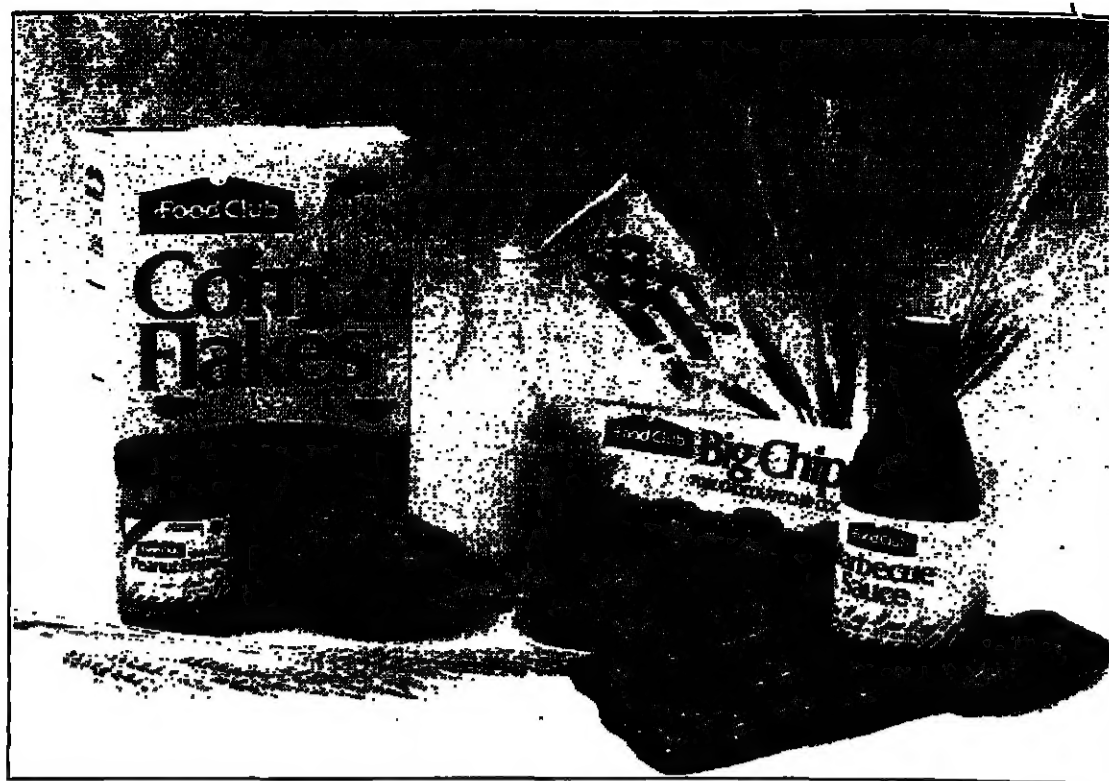
"AN APPLE a day keeps the doctor away" seems to be the motto of the Upper Galilee factory called Nature's Snacks ("Hatifim min Hataiva"). All of its new products, and some of its old ones, contain apples. Its love affair with the apple may have something to do with the fact that the factory is owned by two Galilee kibbutzim (Ayelet Hashahar and Menara), plus the D.R.B. Investment Company.

Nature's Snacks has just come out with its first two types of granola: Granola with Apples and Granola with Apples and Cinnamon. These products are said to contain "at least 20% fruit" — namely, dehydrated apples of the sweet/sour Granny Smith strain. The granola tastes good, presuming you like apples.

The plastic jars of Nature's Granola contain 350 grams and retail for NIS 9.50 at the chain stores. Future planned flavors are Granola with Apple and Plum, and Granola with Apple and Banana.

The factory's best known product is "Pri TV," produced under the Osem label, a crispy snack food consisting of dried slices of apple or pear.

Just in time for Purim baking, Nature's Snacks has come out with glass jars of apple filling (*mahit tapuhim*) and poppyseed filling (*mahit pereg*). I tried baking a few hamantaschen with ready-made dough and the poppyseed filling. Unfortunately, this so-called poppyseed filling has a decidedly apple flavor. No wonder. Its first-listed ingredient is apples! After this, I didn't have the strength to try the apple fill-



(clockwise from above) Food Club, a brand from the US, has arrived at Hypershuk with cereal, cookies and other products; Telma's 'kariot' (pillows) are cereal nuggets filled with hazelnut cream; Uncle Ben's bolognese sauce has no meat.

consumers what to do with it.

It can be used in place of real chicken fat for frying, for making chopped liver and matza balls, and for topping roast potatoes.

A 200-gram jar of Shmaltz sells for NIS 7.95, the same quantity of Garlic Spread for NIS 8.95. They may not have any cholesterol, but both these vegetable fats contain plenty of calories — 625 per 100 grams of the ersatz garlic butter, 683 per 100 grams of the ersatz chicken fat.

They have 67 and 73 grams of fat per 100 grams respectively. The labels fail to indicate how much of this is saturated fat — a fact required by law whenever fat content is more than five grams per hundred.

Vita has just taken over the distribution of all Jenny's products, which include barbecue sauces, pickles and marmalades. They will henceforth be available at 3,000 points of sale, rather than the 90 points to date.

WHEREVER DID THE Hypershuk chain find an American food brand called Food Club to import? It was a name unfamiliar to me, and to several other American Israelis whom I questioned.

It seems that Food Club is a house-brand shared by some 50 US supermarket chains who pay membership dues to a central buying company called Topco, with headquarters in Skokie, Illinois, near Chicago.

Hypershuk's general manager Hezi Dovrat says that the idea behind importing Food Club products from Topco is to give

the Israeli consumer "the aroma of America and the American quality at the price levels of Israeli brands." Hypershuk can afford to do this both because it imports directly and because Food Club is one of the less expensive American brands.

Sold exclusively at Hypershuk, the Food Club products are cheaper than the well-known American brands. "I can't sell ketchup from Food Club at the price of Heinz," Dovrat observes.

For instance, a 790-ml. bottle of Food Club Ketchup sells for NIS 8.75. A 940-gram jar of Food Club Mayonnaise sells for NIS 9.95 — making it almost identical in price to the local Telma Mayonnaise in a one-kilo jar at just over NIS 10.

Most of the Food Club breakfast cereals are in the range of NIS 9 to NIS 10 per box, making them cheaper than most imported brands — though you must carefully compare types and weights. I was not overwhelmed by a sample of Food Club's Raisin Bran. On the other hand, I found the Honey Graham crackers quite enjoyable. There is a recipe (in English) on the box for a chocolate pudding pie with Graham cracker crust.

Other all-American products include peanut butter, shoestring potato sticks, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies, and a low-calorie maple syrup. Hypershuk is importing over 40 products from Topco with the Food Club name or with its other brandnames, including both Mega and Pet Club products for dogs.

All the food products for humans carry American kosher certification, most with the well-known O-U, and all with the additional endorsement of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate.

TELMA'S "Kariot" (pillows) is a new breakfast cereal, said to be an original development by the local firm.

The crunchy bite-sized, pillow-shaped pieces of cereal have a nougat filling (i.e. hazelnut cream), as in a filled wafer or candy bar. In fact, the whole experience is rather like eating candy in cold milk with a spoon.

The product is aimed primarily at teenagers, though anyone with a sweet tooth might appreciate it. The little pillows are enriched with iron and six vitamins.

The cream-filled cereal contains 442 calories per 100 grams, compared with 360 calories per 100 grams in ordinary Telma Corn Flakes.

A 375-gram box of Kariot retails for NIS 14.45. The box is deep blue with colorful lettering, and labeling is bilingual.

UNCLE BEN'S spaghetti sauces are a well-known American product, newly available on the local market. Imported by Sides of Tel Aviv, the sauces are manufactured in Holland and carry the headdress of former IDF chief rabbi Mordechai Piron. There are three varieties of sauce — tomato, tomato with mushroom, and tomato with hot peppers. The label reads: "Sauce for Spaghetti Bolognese — just add meat."

This would be all right, if not for the fact that Rabbi Piron has authorized these sauces as "kasher halavi" — kosher for dairy use. It is not clear why, since there are no specifically dairy ingredients listed.

The price is NIS 9.90 for a 475 gram jar of Uncle Ben's sauce. The importer says that Uncle Ben's sauces account for 43% of the world market in the ready-sauce field, but my family was not impressed.

They like only my homemade sauces on pasta.



Jerusalem musician Eran Sachs sports a 'Vandyke' — a quintessentially hip goatee plus mustache. (Ariel Jerolimski)

The coolest of cool beards returns

DON OLDENBURG
WASHINGTON

WHAT a difference a goatee makes.

A recent *Rolling Stone* cover story on Ethan Hawke begins that way. It blames the 24-year-old actor's facial hair, which could charitably be described as scruffy stubble, for transforming his image. He's gone from the cute kid in Disney's *White Fang* to the existential headache he portrayed in *Reality Bites*, and is apparently off-screen as well.

As young Hawke's chin goes, so goes a generation of Americans. In the past year or so, goatees have been growing on the chins mostly of young men at a rate not witnessed since the Beat Generation drummed bongos and recited free verse in smoke-filled coffeehouses in the '50s.

But what for centuries has been the domain of society's creative types — poets, artists, intellectuals, jazz and folk musicians, and revolutionaries — has gone mainstream.

"It is definitely a trend," says Christophe, the hair stylist best known for coiffing the Clintons. Three weeks ago, Christophe experimented with his own chin hairs before deciding he "isn't a facial-hair kind of guy" and shaving them off. But he has watched goatees (and Vandykes, which add the mustache) grow in popularity.

"The music business may have brought it back," he speculates.

The pages of *Rolling Stone* reveal other hip chins that have gathered moss: among them, Red Hot Chili Pepper Dave Navarro wears a traditional devilish version that actually forms the definitive point, and former Beastie Boys turntable-techie Hurricane shows the rapper 'tee.

A recent edition of *Time* magazine pictures a Pennsylvania high-schooler with a precise Vandyke, heartthrob actor Brad Pitt looking like one of the Dutch Masters, and the "American Gothic" farmer with a buzz cut and goatee.

Taking it on the chin in *People* magazine: Roseanne's brand-new hubby, Ben Thomas, and Tom Cruise. Six beardlets appear in the usually clean-shaven GQ

magazine, three of them on men in *The Italian Collection* fashion spread, and another on Geronimo Pratt, who resides in California's Mule Creek state prison.

Even professional athletes/designated role models, from baseball pitcher "Black Jack" McDowell to basketball star Shawn Kemp, have beardlets.

All of which begs the Ethan Hawke question: What difference does a goatee make?

Justin, a 16-year-old on Bishop McNamara High School's soccer team said he grew his blond goatee "to look intimidating in soccer."

Scott Minos adopted his Vandyke "by accident," when he slipped while trimming his full beard. "Everybody told me they liked it."

"And I like it," says Minos, 32. The public information officer for the Department of Energy, who admits he was disturbed when his psychologist also grew one, knows of no deep-seated motives behind his goatee. "It's more of an 'in' thing now."

But Ruth Rubinstein, a sociologist at the Fashion Institute in New York, sees the resurgence of goatees as today's young men staking their claim to something very basic in an increasingly androgynous fashion world, where young women wear baggy pants and caps backward with the boys.

"I think this is something different," says the author of *Dress Codes: Meanings and Messages in American Culture*. "This may be an attempt to reaffirm their masculinity," she says.

Once the symbol of nonconformity and individuality, goatees now seem nothing more than the cutting edge of facial fashion to actor Bob Denver.

"The beatniks had some kind of goatees and protest cats always had beards," he says. But "it has nothing to do with any kind of thought now, I'm sure. Cosmetic is all it is."

Which may explain the prominent growth on the chin of tennis rebel Andre Agassi, who will always be credited with the phrase "Image is everything." What a difference a goatee makes. (The Washington Post)

BARGAIN BASEMENT

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HAND WASHING MACHINE — new, still in box, NIS 150. 09-558374.
BANJO — 5-string, tenor. 04-242661.
SORA BED — NIS 300. 03-3409911.
COFFEE TABLE BOOK — *The Jews in America*, with personal handwritten dedication by editor, David Cohen, NIS 200. 04-244792.
ELECTRIC WELDING MACHINE — 160A, as new, ideal DIY work shield, brush electrodes, NIS 150. 04-777612.
KITCHEN TABLE — Keaton Sports, as new, NIS 100. 09-589335.
FOURM — 320 for NIS 70 including postage. 07-73482, after 5 p.m.
TOASTER OVEN — NIS 100; fan, NIS 75; bang quilt cover, sheets set, NIS 30; 03-2741595.
2 CABBAGE PATCH DOLLS — boys' Raichle, other toys, NIS 100. 09-626442.
NS.
RADIO — antique, NIS 250; boxes/cartons, excellent condition, NIS 2 each. 03-930690.
POCKETBOOKS — German & English,

NIS 2 to NIS 5 each. 09-584745.
WASHING MACHINE — good condition, NIS 250. Matt, days. 02-52796; evenings. 03-646194.
LAZY SUSAN — wooden, NIS 75; 8 ft. rug, NIS 75; traveling clock radio, NIS 45; standing lamp, 6 ft., NIS 45; humidifier, NIS 45. 02-250762.
RAINCOAT — new, black, large, very smart, never worn, latest style, NIS 120 o.b.o. Freda, 02-722156.
JEANS — new, Levi 3334, Gap white 31-30, NIS 60 each; slacks, 34-34, NIS 60. 02-732442.
WEEKEND VOUCHER — for couple, including food at Reich Hotel, Jerusalem, NIS 300. 02-51802.
SECTIONAL SOFA — 3 parts, NIS 300. 02-287045.
SKIL HAMMER-DRILL — new, NIS 170; baby gym, new, NIS60; set for crib, new, NIS 30; toddler table and 2 chairs, NIS 60. 02-858025.
BURGLAR ALARM — Radio Shack Passive Infrared, new, NIS 300. 02-724807.
NURSING TABLE — attaches to bathtub, as new, NIS 100; baby bath, NIS 50. 02-931212. NS.
COMPUTER PRINTER — Panasonic KX-P1091, needs repair, NIS 100. 02-734758.
WASHING MACHINE — Zobar, new pump, NIS 275. 02-354464.
HEBREW UNIVERSITY — book and registration forms (whole envelope), NIS 45. Miriam, 02-272189.
BED — with mattress and pick-up storage space, NIS 250. 02-868472.
FANCY BLACK DRESS — with magenta highlights, perfect for bridesmaid or mother of bride/groom, worn once, NIS 300 o.b.o. 02-354832. NS.
COMPACT DISK/BOOKSHELVES — wall unit, 175x40x34 in., dark brown, NIS 300. Yaelle, 02-391966 or 02-832143. NS.
ELECTRIC COFFEE MAKER — 2-6 cups,

with filter bags, hardly used, in original box, NIS 70. Black & Decker Workmate, work bench for DIY, folds flat, NIS 120. 02-866474. NS.
COT — light wooden color, suitable from birth to 2 years, good condition, NIS 300. 02-733562.
REFRIGERATOR — white, Westinghouse, good working condition, NIS 250 o.b.o. 02-732166.
LADDER — multi-tech (folding), aluminum, hardly used, made in U.S., modular, NIS 250. 02-538936.
ELECTRA GAS HEATER — 3 elements, model GL 5501, perfect condition, NIS 250. 02-639940.
MATERNITY DRESSES — new, perfect for Shabbat/Pessah: purple, NIS 175; green and black, NIS 125. 02-362092. NS.
TUPPERWARE LAZY SUSAN — NIS 45; 2-liter pitcher, NIS 6; Artiscor Ezekiel, NIS 45. 02-519680. NS.
KONICA 35 MM CAMERA — excellent condition, includes case, flash available, NIS 300. 02-272198.
EXERCISE MINI-STEPPER — new, NIS 180; lampshade, beige lace for ceiling or lamp, new, NIS 60. 02-760149.
CHILD'S CORNER DESK — like new, shelves, drawers, white formica, oak trim, NIS 100. 02-51976.
FOLDING HALOGEN STANDING LAMP — 300 W, black and gold metal, as new, NIS 225. 02-561232. eves.
WEIGHT-LIFTING EQUIPMENT — dumbbells and bench, no bar, NIS 250. 02-611976.
LADIES' COAT — imitation seal and mink, size 14 American, like new, NIS 300. 02-421650.
JUDAICA YEARBOOKS — 73-78, NIS 75 each; chrome floor lamp, NIS 60. Adina, 02-631761. NS.
WOMEN'S SPORTS SHOES — Asics, size 8, new, NIS 180; women's sweater jacket

and vest, size M, NIS 50. 02-851040. NS.
PICTURE FRAMES — 25x38 cm, 2 wood, 2 chrome, NIS 40 each; bike rack for car, NIS 40. 02-661002.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC — magazines, most 1960s issues, 10 for NIS 15. 02-630014.
DISHWASHER — GE Potscrubber, installed but never used, NIS 300. 02-931393. NS.
CHANEL PERFUME — NIS 250 o.b.o. 02-436574.
MICROWAVE — Amana with shelf, very good condition, too big for tiny kitchen, 4 years old, NIS 300. 02-766133.
CARMELA WIG — "First Lady," new, 10-6, includes free set, NIS 180. 02-521043.
MATERNITY DRESSES — new, perfect for Shabbat/Pessah: purple, NIS 175; green and black, NIS 125. 02-362092. NS.
TUPPERWARE LAZY SUSAN — NIS 45; 2-liter pitcher, NIS 6; Artiscor Ezekiel, NIS 45. 02-519680. NS.
KONICA 35 MM CAMERA — excellent condition, includes case, flash available, NIS 300. 02-272198.
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LADIES' COAT — imitation seal and mink, size 14 American, like new, NIS 300. 02-421650.
JUDAICA YEARBOOKS — 73-78, NIS 75 each; chrome floor lamp, NIS 60. Adina, 02-631761. NS.
WOMEN'S SPORTS SHOES — Asics, size 8, new, NIS 180; women's sweater jacket

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INEXPENSIVE COMPUTER — with printer or typewriter with English and Russian daisy wheels, 03-5251167.
BED — standard 140x190, good condition, 07-872641.
TOASTER OVEN — 03-4990744.
FISH SMOKER — Shmel, 09-429805.
COMPUTER — or computer motherboard and accessories for fair price; answering machine. 09-622690.
LEONARD BERNSTEIN — musical lectures, video (Norton, Harvard), copies for loan, purchase or information. 06-577023.
COMPUTER — including screen, good condition, without games, fair price. 06-758315. evenings. NS.
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING MAGAZINE —

October '94 and November '94 issues. 06-61712. NS.
FRIDGE — in good working order, mitzva for new Russian oil. Will pick up in Haifa area. Nechama, 04-382219.
RESPONSIBLE WOMAN — to accompany our daughter, flying TWA to Boston on April 6. 02-865080. NS.
AIR CONDITIONER UNITS — want to buy 1-3. 02-514206. after 6 p.m. NS.
CHAMPION VEGETABLE JUICER — and Vita-mix machine. 02-622556. NS.
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WOMEN'S & PARENTS' MAGAZINES — Jay. 02-823696.
COMPUTER OR TYPEWRITER — for learning-disabled children. 02-670399. NS.
BABYSITTERS' CLUB BOOKS — will pay NIS 5 per book. 02-637132. Braha.
SINGLES/COUPLES — to learn ballroom dancing, group forming. Suzie, 02-829343/252381.
USED TOYS — appliances, sofas and volunteers for Kupat Holim, Gil, Nurse Sara Bar-Lev, w: 02-767991; h: 02-435611.
DOUBLE BED — with storage drawers, English made, NIS 300. 02-732011.

student in Israel tour-guide course. 02-661712. NS.
DRESSER — dressing table, to buy, in good condition. 02-771766. NS.
ELECTRA GAS HEATER — used, in good condition. 02-891777.
LENSES & FILTER — and bag for video camera; halogen standing lamp. 02-860113.
SEWING MACHINE — Singer, good condition, good price. 02-331211.
USED SOFA — and armchairs, high rise or youth bed, chairs. Rachel, 02-380813. NS.

EXCHANGE

COMPACT DISK PLAYER — in exchange for Sony receiver or printing calculator. 02-860113.

Sorry, no listings accepted without a coupon

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BARGAIN BASEMENT accepts ads of up to 20 words free of charge on these conditions: Only one ad per household per week. THE LIMIT per ad in the "offers" section is a TOTAL of NIS 300, and the price of each item must be stated in shekels. The following are NOT accepted: business offers; apartment sales, rentals or exchanges; car sales; job offers; situations wanted; solicitations for donations; offers of marriage or other personal relationships. Ads must be printed in English and submitted on the attached coupon. ADS MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX. The right to reject or edit any ad is reserved.

Ads must reach The Bargain Basement, The Jerusalem Post, Rehov Yirmeyahu in Romema (POB 81, Jerusalem 91 000) by NOON Sunday of the week of publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and published the following week.

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Shameful Somalis

THE withdrawal of the United Nations from Somalia is depressing, an anarchic coda to the dying theme of a new world order, even if the withdrawal is progressing properly. Like a well-oiled machine, the US and Italian marines swept ashore, securing the UN base, the port and airport, while the UN's Bangladeshi and Pakistani troops slipped thankfully through their lines to homebound ships.

The overwhelming world consensus is that Somalia is a failure for international law and order. Americans will not easily forget the images of humiliation they thought their country had left behind with the clean-cut victory in the Gulf War. The pointless loss of 44 young soldiers' lives. American bodies dragged through the streets of Mogadishu by howling mobs in October 1993, the flawed and fruitless manhunt for wanted militia warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed.

Americans have blamed the ever-ready and easy scapegoat - the United Nations. Congress and its new Republicans are translating that anger into legislation to slash American support for UN peacekeeping and to curb the White House's ability to put US troops under foreign commanders. In politics, perceptions are more powerful than facts. There is little hope that the perceptions of Americans and their elected representatives will change on the Somali saga.

Yet some perceptions are just plain wrong. The Americans who died in the worst clash in Mogadishu in October 1993 were Army special forces who were never under UN operational control or foreign command. Nor was the UN alone responsible for the worst mistake in Somalia - changing the mission from humanitarian to peace-enforcing. The United States agreed the policy and was equally culpable - in fact it was the American forces single-minded pursuit of Aideed that exposed US and UN forces to the greatest dangers.

The reason for the change of policy was worth debating - namely, that famine relief and Somali reconstruction required breaking the power of the warring clans. But it was a policy that went off at half-cock and beyond any mandate the Security Council can handle - active peace-enforcing and the construction of governments. It is too soon after the colonial era for any Westerners to gain popular Third World support for such missions. The only alternative is outright war - and try winning popular Western electoral support for that.

Despite the failures, one thing should not be forgotten - the UN mission in Somalia saved half a million lives and who can put a price on that? Also, many hundreds of thousands who may not have starved to death are many times healthier than they were when UN food and medicines started to arrive in the ravaged country three years ago.

There are many more tests of the United Nations in progress and in the pipeline and it would be disastrous if the good work in Somalia is buried under unbalanced public perceptions. And while it is always easy to criticize the sophisticated First World, it should not be forgotten exactly who is responsible for the mayhem in Mogadishu. It is Somalis, and only Somalis. And, from now on, they have no one else to blame but themselves. The world felt sorry for them, the world spent \$3 billion feeding and securing them. But their clownish clan leaders bit the very hands that fed their own people. As King Lear observed, no tooth is quite so keen as man's ingratitude.

It is not just UN incompetence or American isolationism that are responsible for growing donor fatigue around the world and the unwillingness of nations to expose their young soldiers to danger under blue helmets. The clans of Somalia have this wider responsibility. They undoubtedly will refuse to shoulder it, but their ingratitude for the good that was done is a major contribution to aid weariness and cynicism about the United Nations. Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, put it as bluntly as it needs saying: "You're on your own now, Somalia. I cannot imagine the community of nations going back in there."

At a recent news conference, a journalist asked UN officials what happens to Somalia now. A voice from the back called "who cares?" The brutal answer is becoming clearer by the day. Until the Somalis - and the Bosnians, and the Angolans - learn to care about their own countries and people, they can less and less expect others to do so. The Western individualist philosophy of people being responsible for their own actions is the growing mood.

In Somalia, the UN has learned to withdraw, not retreat, as one official said. It may have some hard questions to ask about its future and its policies, but there are plenty to ask them honestly. In Somalia, there are not UN soldiers do not have to hang their heads in shame. But the Somalis should.



Smokescreen in Paris

DESPITE soothing protestations from both American and French officials that the whole thing is a storm in a teacup, the current Paris-Washington spy scandal has serious undertones. It is more than a minor confrontation between two alleged allies, crusty and suspicious about each other at the best of times. In fact, it has nothing to do with spies in Paris at all.

The tussle of wills between France and the US could affect events in the Western world, and Israel in particular, during the next decade.

There is nobody who understands this better than French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, who last week called the issue "Serious. Very serious." Pasqua insisted that the Americans recall their five diplomats accused of espionage as soon as possible.

France and the US aren't likely to go to war against each other, and all countries - even those on the best of terms - spy on each other out of habit. So what could be so vexing about a few spies caught in Paris, even supposing the story is true? Yet French newspapers have called the escalating row "the worst diplomatic rift" in 20 years.

And why, in the first place, did Pasqua leak the news to the reputable *Le Monde* that the CIA was spying on sacred French soil? Are there really so many technological or commercial secrets in Paris that Washington needs to steal?

Behind the smokescreen of charge and countercharge lies the self-interest of the French, who are determined to become major arms and industrial suppliers to oil-rich Iraq and Iran. For the last year and a half, their most skilled commercial diplomats and businessmen have been trying to negotiate massive deals with Saddam Hussein and the Iranian mullahs under a great cloak of secrecy.

These countries are traditional French markets. The French were the major suppliers to Baghdad, enabling Saddam Hussein to build a nuclear bomb-manufacturing facility. This posed such a danger to Israel that Menachem Begin ordered its destruction from the air in 1981.

It was also the French who nurtured and encouraged Ayatollah Khomeini to return to Teheran to topple the shah. Why? To rid Iran of American influence and win favored lucrative deals. Jobs would be provided in France, and industrial magnates would rake in vast profits.

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

It was a ploy which failed totally.

Both Iraq and Iran still owe the French hundreds of millions of dollars in past debts. The only way Paris can hope to get its money back is to give Iraq and Iran what they want. And top of their shopping list is the machinery and know-how to build weapons of mass destruction, both conventional and unconventional.

Both countries are hell-bent on developing a nuclear capacity, and the French have never been over-scrupulous about supplying their customers with the means to

The French weren't satisfied with double-crossing the Americans. They hoodwinked their own people too

wipe out their enemies. There's no reason to think anything has changed in Paris.

The American government has repeatedly tried to dissuade France from giving massive economic aid to Iran until it renounces its campaign of spreading international terrorism all over the globe.

Washington is irate over the way the French are trying to persuade the UN to lift the trade embargo on Iraq. It is no secret in Western and CIA circles that the French DST counterintelligence has been frantically trying to hide its government's Machiavellian wheeling and dealing with Iraq and Iran. Nor is it a secret that the CIA does not need its Paris staff to reveal French dealing.

They get all the information they want, and more besides, from their extensive electronic "worldwide ears," as well as from friendly allies in whose own interest it is to help the US, in case favors are wanted from Washington.

SO WHAT lies behind the French government's sudden decision to pretend that it is hot under the collar about CIA men working in Paris, particularly since Pasqua fully understands the danger of Moslem fundamentalism (now leading caviar as a Persian specialty)? After all, his tough action against militant

Moslems in France made him one of the most popular men in the country.

The answer is simple: politics. Premier Edouard Balladur's campaign to become president this spring is in trouble because of a wiretapping scandal involving illegal funding for his party.

Pasqua orchestrated the operation. And even though Pasqua is Balladur's most powerful supporter, the premier didn't hesitate to blame him for the whole sordid business. Most would consider this a double cross. But not the French.

Instead of bursting into tears, the tough Pasqua closed ranks with his boss and launched a cover-up operation to deflect attention from the wiretapping scandal. The entire story of the Americans spying in Paris was leaked to *Le Monde*.

Then came the second part of the uppercut aimed at saving Balladur. Pasqua blamed the public airing of the spy story on US ambassador Pamela Harriman. Seething with indignation, Harriman replied: "That is neither true nor credible."

The White House has even more reason to be upset with the French. The US president is angry that despite all his blandishments, the French are ignoring Washington's efforts to prevent Iran and Iraq developing weapons of mass destruction and spreading terror worldwide. Clearly, the Paris CIA operatives scandal was needed to save Balladur's fading election prospects.

The CIA is sore. Last August, it gave the French Carlos's address. Pasqua's popularity soared when his men kidnapped the master terrorist in the Sudan and triumphantly flew him back to Paris.

But instead of being grateful, Pasqua has doubled-crossed the same men who thrust him into the world headlines. Far worse: he has ordered them home from their lush posting...

The plan to save Balladur is already working. Knowing how unpopular Americans are with the French electorate, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who supports conservative presidential candidate Jacques Chirac, was forced to go along with Balladur and his sidekick Pasqua. "The Americans should leave soon," he said.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Face value

JOANN BYRD

THE views expressed in this story are not necessarily those of the newspaper.

"Warning: Reading between the lines may cause wrong conclusions, or in some readers, hallucinations."

"Keep the picture on today's page 7 and all other images of violence and cruelty out of the reach of children."

Those notices are inspired by talking to thousands of newspaper readers who are confused or angry or curious. Their comments encourage thinking that newspapers should begin immediately to label their work.

The labels I have in mind mimic the messages attached to con-

'Warning: Reading this newspaper could change your mind'

sumer products and packaged foods and pharmaceuticals. They are warnings and statements of purpose and lists of ingredients and disclaimers.

The idea is to have newspapers anticipate readers' most common questions, assumptions and complaints. And in the process, to explain why newspapers are doing what they are doing. (Just because they are strewn with labels doesn't ensure that readers would think newspapers are perfect.)

SO MUCH of the distance between newspapers and their readers develops because readers don't know - and newspapers so rarely say - what the newspaper is about. I'd wager that some readers would be less offended by a picture or a story if it came with a notice explaining the justification for running it.

A label also demonstrates that people at the newspaper think about these things and have reasons not nearly so exotic or sinister as the ones commonly thought up to fill the vacuum of real information.

Consider: "The purpose of this story is to report that this trend is developing. It has no objective beyond informing readers." Some of the most frequent complaints on the ombudsman's phone come from the newspaper thinking it is doing one thing, and readers presuming it is doing something else.

Following that theme: "This story tries to answer the question, 'How could this have happened?' The story is generated by an act we all believe is terrible; looking at the suspect's past does not glorify the suspect or the crime."

It also seems prudent to publish this: "Precaution - A serious allergic reaction could occur in readers who think this columnist is wrong. If your blood begins to boil, discontinue reading immediately and write a passionate refutation in time for the morning mail."

To aid readers tempted by juicy gossip and superficial celebrity news, newspapers could learn something from the food industry: "Serving size: 9 minutes; Total Fat: 3 minutes; Sugars: 5 minutes; Protein, vitamins and minerals: 1 minute."

Most stories that live for weeks or months at a stretch are best understood by following each day's report and reserving judgment - on the subject and the coverage - until the last story is published.

To that end, a label might urge: "Keep reading this saga until all the testimony has been heard."

Some people respond to the news according to how bad (or, occasionally, how good) it makes them feel. They could be served by labels that predict the emotional impact: "May cause sadness." "May cause disgust." "May cause frustration." And, just in case: "May cause cheer (laughter, hope, inspiration)."

A related notice seems obligatory for those of us who are pretty sure we've got it figured out: "Warning: Reading this newspaper could change your mind."

The thing that labels require is imagining the potential reactions to everything that's going into the paper.

It still might be worth trying: "It has been shown that explanations can relieve enough suspicion and guesswork for readers to take the paper's reporting at face value."

(Washington Post)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRAELI POLICY FORUM

Sir, - A news item in your January 30 issue referred to the New York-based Israeli Policy Forum which supports the Labor government and contends that "the best future for Israel lies in the vision promoted by Israel's present policies." But is there more to the Israeli Policy Forum than meets the eye? Its president is Jonathan Jacoby, a veteran radical who, throughout his career, has adopted extremist positions that are at odds with the positions of Mr. Rabin and the Labor Party.

During the early 1980s, Jacoby was active in the Shalom Network and New Jewish Agenda, two far-left groups that called for the establishment of a PLO state. He also signed a June 22, 1980, *New York Times* ad calling for "national self-determination for the Palestinian people," the traditional euphemism for the creation of a PLO state.

Prime Minister Rabin and the Labor Party, by contrast, have always said that they oppose a PLO state. Jacoby signed a June 30, 1982, *New York Times* ad declaring that "the invasion of Lebanon does not enhance the security of Israel."

Mr. Rabin and the Labor Party, by contrast, supported Israel's strike against the PLO in Lebanon.

When Jacoby became leader of the New Israel Fund, the fund made the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) its largest beneficiary - despite the statement by then-de-

fense minister Rabin in 1988 that ACRI's campaign against the demolition of terrorist homes had eroded the army's deterrent power and led to an increase in terrorist firebombings.

Jacoby later became head of Americans for Peace Now (APN), and under his leadership, APN publicly called (in May 1990) for the expulsion of Jews from parts of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin and the Labor Party have always said that they support Jewish settlement throughout Jerusalem.

In December 1992, under Jacoby's leadership, Americans for Peace Now condemned the Rabin government for temporarily deporting 400 Hamas leaders.

Since becoming head of the Israel Policy Forum last year, has Mr. Jacoby changed his mind on these issues? Does he now oppose a PLO state, favor the right of Jews to live throughout Jerusalem, and endorse the demolition of terrorists' homes and the deportation of terrorists to Lebanon?

Or does he simply regard the Israeli Policy Forum and its "support for Rabin" as a convenient vehicle for hastening the process of Israeli concessions to the PLO?

HERBERT ZWEIFON,
Chairman,
Americans For a Safe Israel
New York

PRO-LIFE

Sir, - This letter is in response to Judy Siegel's article of January 16 about the new abortion guidelines. These new guidelines will make abortions of babies 23 weeks and up easier.

The fact is that great efforts are made to save premature babies born at 23 weeks (one week less than six months old). Now we have 23-week-plus "fetuses" as they are conveniently called by pro-abortion and pro-choice people, that can be aborted. We are talking about fully formed alive human babies killed in their mother's wombs in the most cruel methods without anesthetics of any kind. In many attempted abortions at these advanced ages, there are "accidents" and the babies are born alive and left to die from neglect. This is infanticide.

What has happened to moral ethics in the medical profession and in society in general? It sees a new ethic called "the quality of life ethic" is taking root in our country. It is not a pro-life ethic. It places no absolute value on any human life itself. If the life does not meet the quality-of-life standard, it is therefore disposable. These were the ethics of Nazi Germany.

JULIE BEN-AVRAHAM
Be'ad Chaim Association
Jerusalem

TAMING HAMAS

Sir, - I am tired of the hypocrisy and idiocy of those critics (including *The Jerusalem Post* editors) who say Arafat should already be capable of taming Hamas. Powerful Israel couldn't do it in all the years in Gaza.

These demands are just a right-wing smokescreen to bring down Rabin by insisting he perform miracles that they most certainly will not be able to pull off once they are in power.

It is Rabin's caving in to the right that makes him close the territories for such long periods, thus building up more seething hatred and hopelessness. Result: Expect the terror acts to blossom forth. These are no easy answers, but poverty and collective punishment will only make matters worse.

IRENE PELED
Netanya.

KEG OF DYNAMITE

Sir, - A frustrated, angry Romanian worker living in subhuman conditions (your report of February 17) is a keg of dynamite. He has no decent living quarters, no money, no female company, and his passport is being kept with his employers to ensure that he completes his contract. At the moment, we have 65,000 kegs of dynamite in Israel and we now "need" 25,000 more. It does not enter anyone's mind that there is still a possibility of Jews doing their own manual labor.

What are we waiting for? An explosion of crime? Rape, armed robbery, kidnapping? Where is our national pride? Are we the nation which turned swamps into flourishing fields? Not anymore. We have turned into an indulged nation which does not want to get its hands dirty. Our young generation does not know what a spade or a hammer

looks like. They know about cellular phones, and Jewish families cannot function without a foreign au pair and an Arab gardener. There is something terribly perverted in the education of the younger generation. The government has blinkers on. Instead of giving encouragement and incentive to youngsters by subsidizing salaries and promising bonuses to workers taking jobs in the building trade, they are taking the easy way out in the short term. But in the long run, they are involving the whole of Israeli society in potential dangers that will lead to far-reaching consequences.

Unless we start doing our own dirty work, we will become a decadent nation, undeserving of the beautiful country we have built up since the turn of the century.

LAURINE GLAZER
Ganei Tikva.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



You can't say you didn't see the stop sign at the corner of Regatta and Marina Way in Richmond, California. The picture only manages to show five such signs, but the intersection has a total of 11 - as well as flashing red lights.

(AP)

مكتبة النجف

Skip the trip, or tell him how you feel

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
A group of friends and I are planning a week-long trip up north. Eight of them are couples. Two of us - a boy and myself - are just friends. I am worried about the ratio of couples to singles, because this boy is interested in me as more than just a friend, but I do not feel the same way about him. Can I go on the trip without having to be thrown together with someone I have to reject all the time?

Dear TT,

It seems pretty obvious that the boy sees the trip as a chance to become more than just your chum. To avoid an uncomfortable situation, try to get other singles to go on the trip, or at least bring along a female friend. If you can't arrange this, forget the trip, unless you can make it very clear to your male friend that his love is unrequited.

Dear Ruthie,

I have two close friends. One went through an ugly divorce last year, and the other has had numerous miscarriages over the years.

I've always been available to them: I've lent my shoulder, my ear, and would gladly have cut off my arm if necessary.

Just recently, I had a very traumatic experience. I was horrified and hurt to discover that these two close friends did not seem too interested in my problems.

Instead, they continue to go on and on about their own problems, as if mine are less important. What should I do?

Forgotten Friend in Need
Somewhere in Israel
Dear Friend in Need,
Tell them how you feel. It may

not occur to them that they are hurting you.

Because you've always provided a firm shoulder, they may see you as the Rock of Gibraltar. If you now wish to step out of this role, you owe it to the other players, as well as to yourself, to make this clear. Whether they will respond remains to be seen. If they don't, you'll have to decide whether you want to maintain your close relationship with them.

Dear Ruthie,

I've had hair down to my waist ever since I can remember. Now that I'm 45, I'm thinking about cutting it short. Not only has it started thinning, but I feel that in contrast with the youthful-looking name, my face looks older. I'm also tempted by the idea of going to work in the morning without having to spend ages on my hair.

My problem is my family. My husband won't hear of it; my twin daughters, who are in the army, say I'll look awful. This makes me afraid that if I don't end up liking the way I look, I will have nobody around to make me feel better. Can you help?

Trapped in Tresses
Kfar Shmaryahu

Dear Tress-Trapped,

Try wearing a short wig to help you get used to the new look. This way, if you really hate it, you've still got your hair. Another possibility is to cut it to your shoulders for a start, and crop it only later.

Just don't let your family give you the feeling that your mane is your main attraction.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Ban on curses challenges free speech

LIFE-STYLE

SANDY BANISKY

IT'S been only four months since this town decided to light a small candle against the dark cloud of incivility that it saw settling over the land. And though radio talk-show hosts around the country laughed and the local police chief objected, some people say Raritan already seems a little nicer since the town banned cursing.

"It's in your subconscious," says Mike Fenneman, proprietor of an Italian delicatessen on Somerset Street, the town's main thoroughfare. "Even if I'm out on the sidewalk and I'm talking, getting a little carried away, people say, 'Hey, watch your language.' It's nice."

"At times it was a problem," says Carol Rivella, standing behind the counter of the Raritan Bakery. "I don't bear any more foul language."

No longer are vulgar, indecent language or even insulting remarks to be tolerated in this blue-collar, central New Jersey town of 5,800. Yell "Hey, Fatso," and you could face a \$500 fine and up to three months in jail.

And Anthony DeCicco, Raritan's earnest, affable Republican mayor, says he doesn't understand why anyone would consider the new ordinance controversial. "We're just asking you to be polite," he says.

Cursing has been illegal in Raritan since October, when the borough council amended the town's disorderly conduct ordinance to take a stand against the daily assault of insults, offensive language and just plain bad manners that Americans seem to confront everywhere.

And then the town found it was the butt of national jokes: the town with the Cursing Cops; the city you can't even call a hell of a city; the borough where you have to remember to say nothing stronger than "Oh, fudge."

There were serious objections as well: The American Civil Liberties Union warned that the ordinance trampled First Amendment rights. The Raritan police chief said it was unconstitutional

and he wouldn't enforce it.

But DeCicco - four years in the Marine Corps, 40 years running a tavern - is not swayed. "They say maybe there's too much government intrusion. But there are times when you have to take stands."

And, despite the jokes, many people around the country applauded. DeCicco pulls folders filled with letters from his desk.

From Murfreesboro, Tennessee: "We need more good people like you." From Arvada, Colorado: "I think it's great that you are standing against the filth of language that we hear every day."

From Pepin, Wisconsin: "If I could move, I would, to Raritan."

Fenneman, from his Somerset Street store, says reporters and photographers besieged Raritan for days when the law was passed. He thinks the national interest goes beyond sheer curiosity. "Most of the country is more conservative Republican than they want to admit. They all believe in the old-fashioned values."

Police Chief Joseph Sferra, however, will have no part of it. "If someone comes into the Borough of Raritan cursing and

using foul language," he says, "we will deal with it like we've been dealing with it in my 30 years here: We'll use constitutionally sound statutes."

The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey would be interested in a court challenge - if anyone is ever charged under the ordinance.

"The law is vague and clearly invites law enforcement officers to enforce it according to their own set of moral standards," says Bruce Marvin, an ACLU staff attorney in Newark. "What's offensive to one person might not be offensive to another."

He says the ordinance "has a chilling effect on free speech, in that people engaged in, say, political speech, could be concerned they've crossed the boundaries and engage in self-censorship. It threatens the whole theory behind freedom of speech."

Because the law applies to public and private places, Marvin says, citizens could be charged for using bad language within their homes - thus violating the right to privacy as well as free speech.

And what of all the support the mayor's received? "Just because a law is popular," Marvin says, "doesn't mean it's constitutional."

But DeCicco doesn't see where he's violated any precious freedoms. "In the Constitution nowhere does it say that you can swear and be vulgar."

The debate all started with his efforts to preserve main street - six tidy blocks of shops, restaurants and churches in a town of wood-frame houses.

The council lowered the speed limit to 25 mph, put up signs to remind drivers to stop for pedestrians, and cut the curbs to make wheelchair travel easier.

When kids began loitering outside downtown convenience stores, DeCicco won passage of a curfew for children under 17.

But young adults were still congregating, the mayor says, and their shouts - sometimes profane, sometimes downright intimidating - weren't good for business.

Shoppers don't want to walk into a store if they have to run a gauntlet of guys yelling vulgarities, he says.

Soon, business slows, the store shuts down, main street has an empty storefront - and eventually the whole business district is at risk. The taxpayers lose.

Common sense, he believes, should guide enforcement of the measure. "If you drop your purse and say, '—, we're not coming after you.'"

The object is to stop people from shouting expletives on the street or yelling insults at their neighbors.

"What we've done is sensitize people about their language." (The Baltimore Sun)

Your toilet can smell like a rose if it gets a new sleeve

FIX IT YOURSELF

TAL KATZ

IS the floor behind your toilet starting to look and smell like that of a public toilet? You may be tempted to enroll your kids in a course in hand-eye coordination, but don't be too hasty. It's possible that neither your family nor your plumbing system needs a makeover.

Check the rubber sleeve at the back of the toilet bowl for signs of corrosion. It is probably the culprit, and costs next to nothing to replace.

This repair is for toilets with wall-mounted tanks, the kind most common here. They have an L-shaped pipe that connects the tank with the bowl. The part of the pipe that attaches to the bowl usually has a small, thick rubber sleeve around it. After long use, this piece of rubber tends to crack.

If you're not sure whether this part needs replacing, dry the whole area thoroughly with a towel or rag, flush the toilet a couple of times, and then dab the rubber sleeve with a single paper towel or tissue.

If moisture appears on the paper, it's time to go to the hardware store.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Utility knife (*sakin yapanit*); a towel or rag; an abrasive cleaning pad, metal or plastic; Vaseline; one standard-size (5 cm.) rubber sleeve (costing NIS 6 or NIS 7). This last has no formal name, so you must describe it to the hardware salesperson, perhaps thus: *hagumi sh'mehaber et hazinor shel ha'asla me'ahorani*.

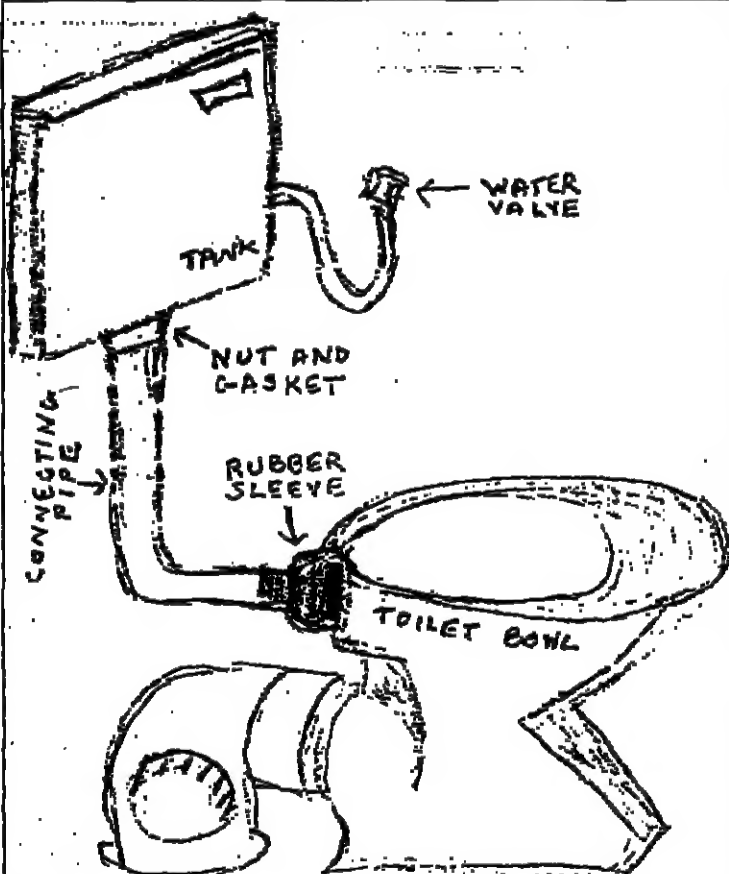
DIRECTIONS

Shut off the water supply to your toilet by turning the valve (little faucet) on the wall clockwise.

Flush the toilet (to empty the tank).

With a utility knife, cut off enough of the damaged sleeve to allow for disengagement of the connecting pipe from the toilet bowl.

Holding a towel or rag for bet-



ter grip, unscrew the large plastic nut which keeps the connecting pipe fastened to the tank. This nut may be notched or smooth. Do not use a wrench.

The nut will slip down onto the connecting pipe. The rubber gasket (*pakung*) underneath should slip down with it. If it remains lodged in place, pull it down carefully with the tips of your fingers to avoid breakage. Though you can remove the nut and gasket from the pipe, it is preferable to leave them on throughout the job.

Remove the connecting pipe. First pull downward to release it from the tank. Then push it backwards, away from the bowl. You will now be holding an L-shaped pipe with a rubber gasket and plastic nut on it in your hand.

Clean the pipe. First remove the rest of the old rubber, either by tugging with your fingers, or with the utility knife. Then scrub along the pipe with the abrasive cleaning pad, until smooth.

The discoloration marking the line where the old sleeve fit onto the pipe will assist you when installing the new sleeve, as you'll need to place it on exactly the same spot.

It will be very hard to slip the new sleeve onto the pipe, due to the snugness of the fit.

To soften the sleeve, immerse it in boiling water for about a minute. Then smear Vaseline along the pipe up to the old discolored line.

The sleeve is shaped like a goblet. The short end of the L-shaped pipe will be inserted into

the narrow end of the sleeve (the foot of the goblet). In spite of the now loosened rubber and greased pipe, insertion will require force. Push continually with a twisting motion of the wrist until the pipe slides up to the old mark.

Once inserted, fold back the other end of the sleeve (the rim of the goblet) in the direction of the pipe.

Now you are ready to reinstall the pipe. First attach it to the toilet. The short end of the "L" will fit into the hole at the back of the bowl.

Then bring the upper part of the pipe (the long side of the "L") to the hole in the bottom of the tank. Slide first the gasket and then the nut upwards to the tank. With the towel or rag you used earlier, screw back on the nut as tightly as you can with your hands.

Unroll the rim of the sleeve (which you folded back earlier), and, with both hands, start to work it onto the protrusion at the back of the bowl.

Begin from underneath the bowl, and work your way around to the top. This requires strong fingers and short nails. This part of the job can be done by someone else, if a manicure is at stake.

Turn the water valve back on (counterclockwise). Now you are free to lecture your clan on the virtues of good aim.

If you have a question or can suggest simple solutions to annoying problems, write to: Fix It Yourself, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

He could deal with science, but not life

BOOKS

JOCELYN MCCLURG

FOLLOWING the surprise success of *Einstein's Dreams*, Lightman is back. Although *Good Benito* is flawed as an organic whole, its quirks, insights and intimate scale make it a charming, often moving read.

The author teaches physics and writing at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and science provides the laboratory for his experiments in fiction.

"Benito" is a childhood nickname for Bennett Lang, who when we meet him has just joined the physics faculty of a fictional Baltimore university.

Good Benito begins with a marvelous set piece, an opening gambit that feels as conclusive as a savvy short story. The dean who has hired Bennett charges him with persuading a brilliant, elusive fellow physics professor to turn over 20 years' worth of unpublished research stuffed in file cabinets.

Arnold Scalapino refuses to publish. Think what a Nobel Prize would mean to the university, says the dean.

Bennett accepts the challenge. After several rebuffs, Scalapino's daughter one day admits Bennett into their home. The genius is monstrously fat and couldn't care less about publishing any new work. Finally, he grants Bennett access to his old papers, but Bennett can make little headway with them. What if he can interest Scalapino in working out a new problem with him, whose results they can publish jointly?

The result of this little experiment is a major disappointment to Bennett, and indicative to the reader that things are perhaps not going to go so well for our gentle hero.

Lightman immediately creates sympathy for Bennett, and yet holds him at a discreet distance.

This is a deeply affectionate, but questioning, portrait of the inner life of a scientist. (At times one can't help thinking that the emotions in this book must be autobiographical.)

AFTER LEAVING Scalapino and his unpublished papers behind, Lightman takes the reader back to Bennett's childhood in Memphis, where he grows up in the '50s and '60s, enamored of science and mathematics. Bennett's idea of fun is shutting himself in his bedroom and doing math problems.

Words, however, are more problematic for young Bennett. He is "terribly confused by what people said."

This is the central dilemma for our scientist. Mathematics and logic guarantee an answer. "And when you found the right answer, there was no arguing about it. You were right, and everyone agreed you were right." Life, alas, lacks such clarity, Bennett discovers.

Always slightly befuddled, Bennett nonetheless gets by on his academic prowess. Working out equations, he escapes the confused world of adolescence. "It is a world without bodies. It is a world of clear logic and grace. It is the best part of loneliness, without the sadness."

Lightman is at his absolute best in these seemingly simple, direct and yet poignant explanations of the allure of science for Bennett. Equally strong are his depictions of Bennett's youth, and here Lightman creates a rich cast of supporting characters.

Bennett's parents are enigmas: His mother is an emotional bas-

ket case and his silent father shuts himself off from the rest of the family. His Uncle Maury has a gambling problem. Bennett and his brothers are in effect raised by their loving black maid, Florida.

Told in spare, straightforward prose as a series of vignettes, gliding back and forth in time (not always effortlessly), *Good Benito* follows Bennett as he goes to college and becomes a professor.

There are some hilarious and touching stories along the way. For example Bennett persuades his family to build a bomb shelter.

Bennett's high-school drama teacher has an affair with him (he never understands what she sees in a 17-year-old). Bennett becomes a member of his college

"physics elite," studying with the eccentric, magnetic Davis Jacoby. Bennett publishes papers and his teaching career takes off.

And yet his emotional life remains a mystery to him. He wants absolutes. He wants, more than anything, to be in control.

Then he meets Penny, a withdrawn soul who becomes his wife. The marriage is a disaster.

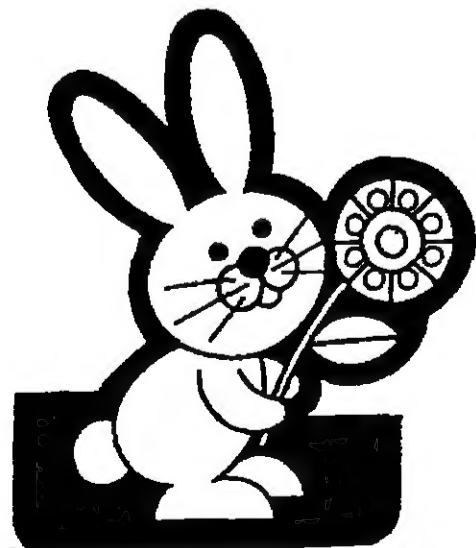
Bennett begins helping Penny tear herself down. He doesn't understand his own cruelty. How to regain control?

Here, Lightman himself loses control of his narrative. For the first time, his "message" (the purity of science versus the chaos of life) feels forced. A lyrically written but tacked-on final chapter doesn't help.

And so if things fall apart by the end of *Good Benito*, the center still holds. At its heart, this is a tender, funny-sad, gently told story. Good Lightman.

(The Hartford Courant)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1995

Foreign currency reserves at record high of \$8.5 billion

HIGH unlinked shekel interest rates pushed the country's foreign currency reserves to a record high of \$8.493 billion, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

The \$942 million rise from January reflected large private sector foreign currency sell orders to cash in on the current high interest rates.

Total foreign currency trading was \$3.88b. last month. Two-sided transactions with commercial banks made up 79 percent of for-

JOSE ROSENFELD

sign currency transactions. The basket of currencies inched up 0.5% against the shekel in February, an annual rise of 5.76% since the beginning of the year. By contrast, the dollar lost 0.33% against the shekel last month, dropping at an annual rate of 5.99%.

At the end of last month, the currency basket exchange rate stood 1.79% below the "crawling

JOSE ROSENFELD

peg's" midpoint. Meanwhile, the state budget registered a NIS 70m. deficit last month, the Treasury reported. Expenditures were NIS 7.1b., while revenues totaled NIS 7b.

The government's net borrowing was negative, with the Treasury paying out NIS 148m. more than it borrowed.

Income from the sale of Israel Chemicals' controlling stake to-

taled NIS 656m.

Since the beginning of the year, the budget has accumulated a surplus of NIS 636m.

Expenditures totaled NIS 14.7b., while revenues were NIS 15.3b.

The Treasury paid out NIS 531m. more than it borrowed, and its income from the sale of government companies totaled NIS 954m., of which NIS 774m. was in foreign currency.

Sivan: Lending policy of banks not to blame for crisis in capital market

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

interest rate," said Sivan. "There is no doubt that when the interest rate goes up, from 10 percent to 20% and from 11% to 21%, this changes the worthwhileness of the share market, and in light of what we are currently experiencing, also the bond market."

Commenting on the recent allegations against Amnon Peled, Bank Hapoalim's Rehovot branch investment adviser, Sivan said the Securities Authority released the worker after one day of questioning.

"The worker was questioned for a whole day," he said. "The

investigation has ended and the worker was returned to us. It seems that they [the Securities Authority] did not discover any criminal wrongdoings against him. As far as the bank is concerned, this does not reduce the severity of what he [Peled] did."

Sivan said the bank's internal control system could not have prevented the adviser's telephone conversation.

Peled was recorded in October 1994 giving a customer advice to buy Abjac Mazel warrants, nine months after the stock market started to fall.

He was also heard trying to encourage the customer to en-

Bank Hapoalim signs agreement with American Express to issue its cards

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim will establish a subsidiary to issue American Express cards in Israel later this year, under the terms of an independent operator agreement signed yesterday.

Card members will be able to use the card at establishments in Israel and worldwide.

The subsidiary, Hapoalim American Express, will issue several American Express cards.

Joseph Dauber, joint managing director of Hapoalim, will be appointed chairman of Hapoalim American Express. Dauber negotiated the deal with American Express with the assistance of the Dovrat Shrem investment consultant company.

Bank Hapoalim will be respon-

sible for marketing the card here and supporting the American Express card locally - including billing and payment systems, accounting, customer service, credit and fraud control, and charge authorizations.

Hapoalim said Isracard will be responsible for supplying the local network with all operational services.

"This agreement with Bank Hapoalim represents a new approach in our strategy for growing the American Express Card business in certain selected markets around the world," said James Li, president of the international business development

group, American Express TRS Co. "We are looking for opportunities to match the worldwide strengths of the American Express brand and worldwide service with the marketing and operations experience of a strong local partner."

Hapoalim board chairman Amiram Sivan said the American Express name is synonymous with high quality service.

"The alliance fits with the bank's strategy of increasing its market share among affluent households and business segments within the Israeli marketplace," said Sivan.

"It will assist in diversifying

and improving overall services to the bank's existing and new customers."

Hapoalim said American Express customers will be able to take advantage of American Express's worldwide network of over 1,700 travel offices located in over 120 countries.

He said card holders will have access to travel service, foreign exchange services, Travelers Cheques sales, encashment and emergency refunds, emergency check cashing and card replacement.

American Express has two fully-owned travel service offices in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem which offer these services to its customers.

Three groups seek Hapoalim tender

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THREE investment groups are reportedly interested in participating in the tender to gain controlling interest of Bank Hapoalim.

Today is the deadline for participants to express an interest in the purchase of a block of shares representing 20 percent to 40% of the voting rights and issued share capital of Bank Hapoalim.

Any party wishing to participate in the sale process must deposit \$20 million with the accountant general at the Finance Ministry.

The only investment group so far to deposit the money is the one headed by the Renaissance

group. The group includes the Claridge group, controlled by the Bronfman family; investment bank Goldman Sachs; US investment banking firm Lehman Brothers; Larry Tisch; and Paz in partnership with other local investors.

The second consortium is headed by businessman Eliezer Fishman and includes the US investment banking firm Bear Stearns.

The third group, which has not yet publicly announced its participation, is made up of the Gher-

mezian family in partnership with investment bank First Boston. Attorney Yossi Segev, the group's representative in Israel, said the consortium does not include any other investors.

The Ghermezian family is made up of four brothers and a father who own numerous holdings in the US and Canada via Triple Five Corp., the family-owned company.

The Ghermezians are one of the owners of West Edmonton Mall in Edmonton and Minneapolis' The Mall of America, the largest shopping mall in the US. The scope of the family's financial resources is unknown.

Most mutual funds suffer negative real yield last month

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ALMOST every mutual funds recorded a negative real yield in February, according to the investment firm Meitav.

Meitav reported that 277 of the 290 funds which invest in the capital market achieved a negative real yield last month.

Meitav assumed an inflation rate of 0.5 percent in February, for its summary of the mutual fund sector's performance.

Meitav's mutual fund index plunged 7.5%, reflecting negative real yields in all the group's indexes.

The best performing funds were those specializing in foreign currency, which were down an average of 1.2%. Funds special-

izing in government bonds were down 1.3%, while bond funds lost 3.3% last month.

The poorest performers were funds specializing in shares, with an average negative yield of 14.8%. These were followed by flexible funds, which achieved a negative yield of 10.2%.

All the 10 best mutual fund performers were the conservative funds, specializing in foreign currency, short-term bonds and government bonds.

The 10 worst performing funds are mainly made up of share funds. The poorest performer - Princess Continental, which is managed by Continental - had a 18.6% negative real yield.

Teva announces rise in fourth quarter net profits to \$19m.

RACHEL NEIMAN

TEVA yesterday announced an increase in fourth quarter net profits to \$19 million from \$16.2m. during the same period last year.

Revenues rose to \$150.6m. from \$131.3m.

For the year, net profits rose to \$71.64m. from \$51.47m., while revenues increased to \$587.7m. from \$501.97m.

Exports accounted for 61.6 percent of sales last year, of which 47.8% were to North America, 9% to Europe and 5.8% to the rest of world.

Although the bottom line came close to predictions, "nothing in between was as expected," Hurwitz said. "We thought the local market would be down. Instead, local sales grew. We expected FDA approval on three drugs and we received none - they

came through in 1995."

Hurwitz said this week the FDA approved two additional products - Cimetidine and Clotrimazole, with an estimated market of \$600m. per year.

Teva is also currently testing Copaxone, a new MS treatment. When released, Hurwitz predicted the drug "will change Teva into another kind of company with a different level of profitability."

Teva had a rise in expenses and salaries. Hurwitz blames the government. "Everything the government did to the balance of payments was detrimental. All government determined inputs rose - the price of monies, transportation, fuel."

Hurwitz said he does not feel



Hurwitz: Bank of Israel should lower interest rates by 3%-3.5% (Media Images)

there is a major market crisis, but "an imbalance between the price of materials, capital, money and foreign currency."

He said the government should freeze a certain part of the budget for privatization "and the Bank of Israel should agree to lower interest rates by 3%-3.5%."

Potential bidders nibble at Barings

LONDON (Reuters) - Bankers looking to buy parts of collapsed British investment bank Barings finally started to nibble yesterday, while its administrators tried to stem staggering losses triggered by one maverick dealer in Singapore.

Financial sources said ABN AMRO, the biggest bank in the Netherlands, was considering a bid of about £300 million for Barings' corporate finance team and its fund management operations, Barings Assets Management (BAM).

The sources, based in Amsterdam, said US finance house Merrill Lynch had a larger bid on the table for BAM, which is considered one of the juiciest parts of Barings' business.

Spokesmen at ABN AMRO and Merrill Lynch declined to comment on whether bids had

been made. But a spokesman in London for administrators who now control Barings said talks with potential bidders continued yesterday and nothing had been finalized.

"No deals have been done. They [the administrators] are in discussions with various people," the spokesman said.

Administrators were sent in on Sunday after Barings, Britain's oldest merchant or investment bank, stunned banking regulators by revealing that its capital had been wiped out by one dealer's trades.

Bank sources in London said it was increasingly clear that the 233-year-old Barings would be broken up in the event of a sale.

They said potential buyers were looking at BAM and Barings Brothers & Co Ltd, the group's corporate finance and banking

arm, but were less interested in Barings Securities Ltd, the other main part of the group.

"People want the corporate finance and asset management sides, but the rest can go bang," one banker said.

Bank sources said the administrators were running out of time since entities like BAM would quickly plunge in value if key staff left or investors decided to withdraw funds.

The spokesman for the administrators said they were in the process of finalizing and quantifying Barings' losses, after the dealer in Singapore, Nick Leeson, took a bad gamble on Japan's stock markets that crushed the British group.

Leeson, 28, and his wife, Lisa, have fled and were last seen leaving a luxury hotel in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Net profit drop at Ind. Dev. Bank

COMPANY RESULTS

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Annualized net return on equity fell to 7.4% from 13.8%.

Bank Otzar Hahayal, a Bank Hapoalim subsidiary, announced

a NIS 26m. annual net profit, unchanged from 1993.

Annualized net return on equity fell to 16% from 19%.

Bank Hapoalim subsidiary, completed the year with a rise in net profit to NIS 50.56m. from NIS 49.8m.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mintkevitch, Bronfeld reject call to close Maof: Securities Authority chairman Arye Mintkevitch and Tel Aviv Stock Exchange managing director Sam Bronfeld yesterday rejected a call by MK Meir Sheerit to close the Maof options market, at least temporarily.

They rejected his claim that it destabilized the TASE, turning it into "a casino", saying that in fact it added stability.

Shohat in Bonn for industrialists' meeting: At the invitation of Germany's manufacturers association, Finance Minister Abraham Shohat went to Bonn yesterday to participate in a meeting on business opportunities in Israel.

Hundreds of industrialists participated, including representatives from Daimler Benz, Mele, Siemens, BMW, the German telecommunications company, Electal, BASF and several banks.

Elbit has raised \$13 million in a realization of series 1 options issued in 1991. In February, 732,444 options, representing \$9.3m., were realized.

Kivun Computers' Accent program will be installed in the press room at CeBIT, Europe's largest computer exhibition.

C. Mer has met and received the ISO 9001 standards for its entire range of products. The company deals in electronics, optics and related products.

Teva has invested \$3.6 million in a new production line for Swiss-style yogurt.

Elrov and primary interest holder Alfred Akirov have decided to exercise their options in subsidiary Elkamit Development, a real estate firm, for a total investment of NIS 13m. Elkamit's shareholders equity now stands at some NIS 54m. Elrov now owns 87% of Elkamit's outstanding shares, of which 2% is personally owned by Alfred Akirov.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (23.95)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	5.375	5.500	6.000
German mark (DM 100,000)	4.750	5.125	5.875
French franc (FF 200,000)	3.825	3.750	4.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.825	3.875	3.500
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.825	0.875

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (13.95)			
Currency basket	BUY	SELL	Rep. Rate*
U.S. dollar	3.3670	3.4150	3.3670
German mark	2.9513	3.0390	2.9513
French franc	2.0227	2.0512	2.0227
Japanese yen (100)	0.5784	0.5845	0.5784
Swiss franc	3.0588	3.1020	3.0588
British pound	1.8084	1.8519	1.8084
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3910	2.4247	2.3910
Swedish krona	0.4039	0.4086	0.4039
Norwegian krona	0.4574	0.4639	0.4574
Danish krone	0.5083	0.5154	0.5083
Finnish mark	0.8800	0.8983	0.8800
Canadian dollar	2.1217	2.1516	2.1217
Australian dollar	2.1875	2.2183	2.1875
S. African rand	0.8251	0.8547	0.8251
Belgian franc (10)	0.9824	0.9982	0.9824
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8734	2.9138	2.8734
Italian lire (1000)	1.8057	1.8511	1.8057
Jordanian dinar	—	4.16	4.16
Egyptian pound	—	0.84	0.84
ECU	3.7688	3.8588	3.7688
Irish punt	4.9508	5.0784	4.9508
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3102	2.3488	2.3102

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Date: 28.2.95

Purchase Price: 98.18

Redemption Price: 96.70

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מכאן תוכלו

Key Representative Rates	
	Change
US dollar ... NIS 2.9860	-0.07%
Sterling NIS 4.7164	-0.18%
Mark NIS 2.0453	+0.24%

NEW STOCK

New York market indexes

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Rosenthal hits three as Spurs crush Saints, 6-2

LONDON (AP) — Substitute Ronny Rosenthal scored three stunning goals as Tottenham hit back from 2-0 down at half time to beat Southampton 6-2 at the Dell Wednesday to set up an FA Cup quarterfinal game against his former club, Liverpool.

The Israeli striker turned the game around with two goals in two minutes early in the second half and another 11 minutes into extra time to make it 3-2.

Teddy Sheringham, Nicky Barmby and Darren Anderton then added to the Saints' misery with late strikes for Spurs with the home team's defense in disarray.

It was a storybook comeback for Spurs, which was kicked out of the competition before the season started as an FA punishment for financial irregularities. Tottenham, which

shares the record of eight FA Cup titles with Manchester United, was restored to the competition on appeal.

The Saints took only six minutes to take the lead, Jason Dodd's off-target shot being turned in by the alert Neil Shipperley from 10 yards. Six minutes before half time it was 2-0 when Dean Austin felled Neil Heaney inside the penalty box and Matthew Le Tissier scored from the spot.

Rosenthal entered the game soon after Saints' second goal and halved the home team's lead in the 57th minute.

Barmby collected Sheringham's backheel and sent over a cross that Rosenthal fired past Zimbabwean goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, his former Liverpool colleague, from eight yards.

Two minutes later it was 2-2. Rosenthal cut in from the right and drilled a 20-yard shot between Grobbelaar and the near post.

Extra time was 11 minutes old when Rosenthal struck again. The Israeli striker was left too much space and hit a swerving left-foot shot in the top left-hand corner of the net.

With Saints pushing up in attack, Spurs broke out to score a fourth in the 23rd minute of extra time, Juergen Klinsmann pulling a defender and the goalkeeper out of position and Sheringham pushing the ball into the net from close range.

Two minutes later Barmby made it five, prodding the ball into an empty net with Grobbelaar again pulled off his line.

Only seconds remained in the game when Anderton hit the sixth with a thunderous shot.

Hap Jerusalem dampens Herzliya's playoff hopes

RICHARD ZAACKS and STEVE LEIBOWITZ

BNEI Herzliya suffered a blow to its Final Four hopes with a home loss to Hapoel Jerusalem last night, 81-77.

Herzliya blew a 76-71 lead with three minutes to go after Radenko Dvorski scored eight of his 29 points down the stretch to mount the comeback.

Jerusalem played a good team game from the beginning, leading throughout the first half. The players kept their composure, despite falling behind in the last moments.

Amir Katz, the star against Maccabi Tel Aviv in the State Cup on Monday, had a poor shooting night, but managed 21 points. Paul Thompson scored 20 and Koren Amisha 13.

For Jerusalem, Billy Thompson netted 16.

Mac Jerusalem 98, Hap Haifa 88. Hapoel Haifa sealed its fate to be relegated to the second division, losing on the road to Maccabi Jerusalem.

Haifa kept the contest close, trailing by only four points, 55-51, at the half. But Jerusalem used a second-half spurt, sparked by Avner Saban off the bench, to put the contest out of reach.

The victory for Maccabi pushed the team over the .500 mark and kept alive slim chances for reaching the lower playoffs.

Joe Dawson and Shawn Green were each effective on attack, leading the victors with 26 points apiece. Green ignited the small home crowd with several spectacular slam dunks. Dawson came back into the game after a frightening fall to get key hoops down the stretch.

Shimon Amisalem was high scorer for the losers with 18 points.

Hap TA 89, Hap Gratz 74. Hapoel Tel Aviv trounced Gvat at home to take sole possession of second place.

Lior Arditi scored 16 of his 21 points in the first half to help Tel Aviv to a 51-32 advantage at the break.

In the second half, Gvat cut the lead to 62-51 with 12 minutes left, but a 8-0 Tel Aviv run snuffed any last remaining chances.

For Tel Aviv, Milton Wagner led with 25 points, while Gilad Katz scored 15 and dished out 11 assists.

For Gvat, Derrick Gervin scored 22 and Rodney Munro 21.

Hap Ellat 104, Hap Givatayim 83. Hapoel Ellat easily defeated visiting Hapoel Givatayim.

Ellat jumped to a 17-5 lead after five minutes and boosted the advantage to 50-36 at halftime.

In the second half, the southerners kept up the pressure and Givatayim — already doomed to relegation — was unable to rally.

National Basketball League

	W	L	Pts.
1. Maccabi Tel Aviv	21	2	44
2. Hapoel Tel Aviv	18	7	38
3. Hapoel Gvat	15	8	35
4. Maccabi Rishon	15	8	35
5. Hapoel Haifa	14	9	37
6. Hapoel Hadera	14	9	37
7. Hapoel Eilat	13	10	36
8. Hapoel Jerusalem	13	10	36
9. Maccabi Ashdod	12	11	35
10. Maccabi Ramat Gan	9	13	31
11. Hapoel Givatayim	8	15	31
12. Hapoel Haifa	8	17	29
13. Hapoel Gvatayim	4	19	27
14. Bnei Herzliya	0	23	23

O'Neal's 41 leads Magic past Knicks

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Ewing guaranteed New York would beat the Orlando Magic. He was wrong.

The Phoenix Suns figured they could beat the Clippers without Charles Barkley. They were just as wrong.

Back from his one-game suspension, Shaquille O'Neal had another 41-point game against Ewing and the Knicks on Tuesday night, and New York lost for the third straight time to Orlando, 118-106.

"Talk is cheap," Magic guard Nick Anderson said of Ewing's boast. "Talking never hurt anybody. You have to back it up."

The Suns continued to stum-

ble, falling 110-99 to the NBA's worst team and losing for the fourth time in seven games. Now the Magic are in sole possession of the league's best record, 43-13.

After sitting out Sunday's game with Chicago as punishment for an altercation with Boston's Eric Montross, Shaq came back with a vengeance. In four games against Ewing this season, he's scored 41 three times and 38 once.

Orlando also was helped by the return of Horace Grant, who missed two games because of back spasms. He had 12 points, 14 rebounds and four steals. Dennis Scott, starting at small forward for the injured Donald Roy, scored 26.

New York, which fell seven games behind Orlando in the Atlantic Division, still thinks it can beat Orlando.

"The last three times we've played this team, especially down here, we're just not playing the

way the Knicks are capable of playing," said Ewing, who had 32 points and 15 rebounds for his fifth straight 30-point game. "That's the bottom line."

New York trailed 61-57 at the half, staying close with balanced scoring from Charles Smith (14), Ewing (12) and John Starks (11) before Orlando used a 7-0 spurt at the start of the third quarter to open an 11-point lead. The closest the Knicks got after that was 113-106 with 30 seconds left in the game.

76ers 106, Bulls 102. Clarence Weatherspoon scored 30 points and Philadelphia broke a four-game losing streak with a victory at Washington.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	40	18	.714	—
San Antonio	37	18	.682	1.5
Houston	35	20	.636	4.5
Denver	24	31	.436	15.5
Dallas	21	32	.396	17.5
Minnesota	14	41	.255	25.5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	34	25	.576	—
Seattle	37	18	.682	—
L.A. Lakers	34	19	.642	.5
Portland	30	23	.566	10.5
Sacramento	28	25	.528	12.5
Golden State	16	37	.302	24.5
L.A. Clippers	11	46	.193	31.5

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:

Philadelphia 106, Washington 102. Orlando 118, New York 106. Miami 95, Milwaukee 85. Dallas 102, Houston 101. San Antonio 100, Cleveland 83. Denver 114, Minnesota 101. L.A. Clippers 110, Phoenix 99.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	43	13	.768	—
New York	35	18	.660	7
Boston	22	32	.407	20
Miami	21	33	.389	21
New Jersey	22	35	.365	21.5
Philadelphia	16	40	.286	27
Washington	13	41	.241	29

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	34	25	.576	—
Charlotte	35	21	.625	—
Cleveland	33	22	.600	1.5
Atlanta	27	28	.491	7.5
Chicago	27	28	.491	7.5
Milwaukee	21	35	.375	14
Detroit	20	34	.370	14



PITCHED BATTLE — Marcel Witczek of Bayern Munich and Pontus Kamark of Sweden's IFK Gothenborg struggle for the ball during their European Cup match yesterday. (Reuters)

Bayern held to scoreless draw

Hajduk Split, Ajax Amsterdam also end European Cup match 0-0

MUNICH (Reuters) — Injury-hit Bayern Munich's hopes of reaching the semifinals of the European Cup suffered a setback when the team was held to a goalless draw by Gothenborg in the home leg of its quarter-final yesterday.

Bayern had a number of scoring chances but was largely frustrated by a well-organized defense and the bravery of Swedish World Cup goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli.

The Bavarians, deprived of influential captain Lothar Matthaus and French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin because of injury, face an uphill battle in the second leg.

But manager Uli Hoeness was far from despondent. "A goalless draw is a fair position for the second leg," he said. "They have to come to us there."

Two of Bayern's best three chances in the first half fell to

Alexander Zickler. But he squandered both of them.

Bulgarian striker Emil Kostadinov also fired a good cross from German international Christian Ziege past the post.

Bayern maintained its work-rate in the second half and, following a 66th minute corner, German international defender Thomas Helmer fired over the bar from a good position.

Six minutes later midfielder Mehmet Scholl hit a left-foot shot past the right-hand post.

"We created more chances than they did but we weren't sharp enough in front of goal," said Hoeness.

Hajduk Split 0, Ajax Amsterdam 0. Host Hajduk Split reduced Ajax Amsterdam to two clear chances in a scoreless draw in their European Cup quarter-final first leg clash.

The Dutch side, favorites to win the trophy, dominated the game but seldom broke through the close-

marking Croatian defenders. Both goalkeepers were rarely called into action.

Ajax managed just two shots on target despite enjoying far more possession against the Croatian champions, who seemed still in shock from their first league defeat of the season at the weekend.

Teenage striker Patrick Kluijvert blew a good chance for Ajax in the 12th minute when he shot from almost point blank range straight at Hajduk goalkeeper Tosec Gabric.

Three minutes later Finnish international Jari Litmanen's close-range drive was held by the diving Gabric.

Hajduk striker Milan Rapajic's blistering shot from 25 meters in the 17th minute beat Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar but was cleared off the line.

In the 26th minute, Gabric raced off his line to beat veteran defender Frank Rijkaard to the ball near the edge of the box.

The pace slowed in the second half with both sides falling into a pattern of aimless passing in their own halves and midfield, drawing jeers from the crowd of 35,000.

Frank de Boer's 25-meter free kick in the 84th minute was misjudged by Gabric but whizzed just wide of the goal.

Ajax looked stronger and ran faster but were continually frustrated by hounding Hajduk defenders who boot away every corner kick and cross.

Hajduk's attack was crippled by the failure of midfielders Stipe Andrijaevic and Aljosa Asanovic to link with star strikers Ivica Morina and Rapajic.

In Split: Hajduk Split (Croatia) 0, Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 0. Attendance: 35,000.

In Munich: Bayern Munich (Germany) 0, IFK Gothenborg (Sweden) 0. Attendance: 45,000.

In Milan: AC Milan (Italy) 2, Benfica (Portugal) 0 (0-0). Scorers: Milan: Marco Simoni (63rd, 75th mins). Attendance: 48,855.

In Barcelona: Barcelona (Spain) 1, Paris St. Germain (France) 1 (0-0). Scorers: Barcelona: Igor Korneyev (48th), Paris St. Germain: George Weah (54th). Attendance: 114,700.

SPORTS BRIEFS

S Africa coasts to win against NZ

Visiting South Africa wasted no time in wrapping up its cricket win over the New Zealand Academy XI before lunch yesterday. South Africa began the final day at 13 for one, needing 82 for victory. It reached 85 for two in just over an hour to notch up an eight-wicket win.

McClellan's brain still swollen

American boxer Gerald McClellan's brain remains slightly swollen three days after a world title bout left him in critical condition.

McClellan, who had a large blood clot removed from his brain after his defeat to WBC super-middleweight champion Nigel Benn, continues to be kept on a ventilator under heavy sedation at Royal London Hospital.

Mexico drops bid for 2002 World Cup

Crisis-hit Mexico has told FIFA that it no longer wants to host the 2002 World Cup finals, leaving Japan and South Korea the only runners in an all-Asian contest, soccer's governing body announced yesterday.

FIFA said it received an official note from Mexican soccer officials on Tuesday.

26 exhibition baseball games canceled

A total of 26 scheduled baseball spring training exhibition games, including 12 involving the Baltimore Orioles, have been cancelled, the leagues announced yesterday.

In all, the cancellations affected 19 games in Florida, five in Arizona and two in Las Vegas through March 13.

Hill banned for...speeding?

BICESTER, England (AP) — Formula One driver Damon Hill was banned from driving for seven days yesterday and fined £350 for — what else? — speeding.

Hill was sentenced by magistrates after pleading guilty to driving his Renault company car at 165.2 kph on the M40 highway north of Oxford on December 5. The speed limit is 70 mph (112 kph).

The 34-year-old Hill said he was driving to a TV interview in Birmingham when he was caught. Hill is the No. 1 driver for the Williams-Renault Grand Prix team. He finished second behind Michael Schumacher in the world championship standings last season.

Hill's lawyers said the ban could affect the driver's eligibility for the opening Grand Prix race of the season in Brazil on March 26. However, officials indicated Hill was under no real threat of missing the opening race.

Hill will be able to apply to the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) for an International A license

when his ban finishes next Wednesday. That license can be issued in a few hours for the payment of an additional fee.

Hill would then have to apply to motor racing's world governing body, FIA, for a super license.

"My feeling is that Damon will drive in the opening race," lawyer Michael Breen said. "We don't foresee any problems."

"We thought it was a borderline case whether he would be banned or not. We are not dissatisfied with the outcome."

Colin Wilson, spokesman for the RAC's motor sport division, said: "As far as we are concerned, what has happened today will not stop Damon going to the starting line in Brazil."

It was not the first time Hill had been stopped for speeding.

Last year, while traveling to Silverstone to drive in the British Grand Prix, Hill was stopped going 193 kph. When he told police who he was and where he was going, he was let off with a caution.

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Perry: Leak on wiretap in Deri case could not have come from the GSS

FORMER General Security Service head Ya'acov Perry claimed yesterday that no one from the GSS could have told Aryeh Deri's co-defendant, Moshe Weinberg, that his phone was being tapped, because GSS technicians are not told the identities of the people whose phones they tap at the police's request.

In a letter to Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, Perry said that only the police, the police

minister, and the justice minister know the identities of those being wiretapped.

Earlier this week, Ben-Yair appointed Maj.-Gen. (res.) Moshe Gidron to head an independent inquiry that will investigate the leaks regarding the tapping of phones in the Deri case.

Deri, Weinberg, Weinberg's father, Aryeh, and Yom-Tov Rubin are on trial in Jerusalem District Court for fraud.

In a tape of a conversation between Moshe Weinberg and state's witness Ya'acov Shmulevitz that was played in court, Weinberg claimed a GSS agent had told him his phone was being tapped.

Gidron, who met with Ben-Yair yesterday, said he does not see any reason at this point to question Weinberg or anyone else involved in the Deri trial.

The GSS was angered by the playing of the tape in open court, because it revealed some methods employed by the service, including the fact that the GSS carries out the technical work for wiretaps ordered by police.

The GSS is also incensed that police did not investigate the source of the leaks to Weinberg four years ago, when the tape with Shmulevitz was recorded. (Tim)

Deri lawyers attack Shmulevitz's credibility

JACOB DALLAL

ARYEH Deri's lawyers yesterday continued their attempt to discredit state's witness Ya'acov Shmulevitz, portraying him as a swindler who took loans he never repaid and forged signatures as a matter of course.

In another day of cross examination, defense attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak presented evidence that Shmulevitz had defaulted on loans, contradicting Shmulevitz's earlier testimony that he owed money to no one.

"I want to show the extent of the audacity of this witness. He is making up lies out of the blue and he knows it," Avi-Yitzhak said.

Avi-Yitzhak asked Shmulevitz if he had ever repaid a NIS 10,000 loan he had taken out in the late 1980s. Shmulevitz said the loan was repaid when a provident fund of his came due.

But Avi-Yitzhak presented documents showing that the two signatories on the loan, one of whom was co-defendant Yom Tov Rubin, had to make good on Shmulevitz's loan.

"Yom-Tov Rubin was your provident fund," Avi-Yitzhak said.

Avi-Yitzhak also showed Shmulevitz checks from the institutions for which Shmulevitz had worked in the late 1980s. Shmulevitz admitted forging signatures on several of these checks, but said this was nothing out of the ordinary.

"I signed their names, they signed mine; this was an accepted practice," Shmulevitz said.

"The police must have showed you hundreds of documents from Lev Banim... were you able to show the police a single signature that was forged by some other than yourself?" Avi-Yitzhak asked.

"No, not that I remember," Shmulevitz replied.

Avi-Yitzhak claimed that Shmulevitz continued to act crookedly when he left Israel in 1993. He left the country owing \$6,000 to a travel agency, and took \$10,000 from a man in Belgium for services he never rendered, Avi-Yitzhak charged.

Then there was the studio apartment in Antwerp that Shmulevitz had rented: "You took all the furniture from the apartment when you left," Avi-Yitzhak said.

At one point the audience, which was made up almost exclusively of Deri supporters, started to laugh.

The prosecuting attorney objected to what he called the "wild laughter coming from the benches in the courtroom."

"Who in the audience laughed? Who laughed?" asked an angered Judge Ya'acov Tzema. "Anyone who laughs will be ejected from the courtroom and may have other action taken against him."



This photo, taken in 1952, shows members of the Zvirken family of Rakoviza, Byelorussia. The seated couple risked their lives during the Holocaust to hide a Jewish couple and their three-year-old son, who survived the war and came to this country in 1945. Stanislava Zvirken (left), the couple's daughter, sent the photo to the Jewish Agency's division for locating relatives, which is asking the public's help in locating the Jewish family. (Yitzhak Elharar)

One Jerusalem talks with Olmert about joining municipal coalition

BILL HUTMAN

AFTER being thrown out of power in 1993 for the first time in nearly three decades, Jerusalem's Labor-affiliated council faction, One Jerusalem, is nearing a deal with Mayor Ehud Olmert (Likud) to enter the city coalition.

Labor Party Secretary Nissim Zvili gave the go-ahead for the move on Monday, in a meeting with One Jerusalem councilors, sources at the meeting said.

The major obstacle to concluding the deal is what portfolios the faction would receive if it joins, according to Likud and Labor sources.

One Jerusalem, which had been led by former mayor Teddy Kollek, has been struggling to reorganize since its defeat in the last municipal election. Several months ago, the faction began sending out feelers to Olmert.

"On the municipal level, being in the opposition does not have much meaning," said One Jerusalem councilor Yisrael Shulderman. "We want to have an influence on what happens in this city."

Olmert wants One Jerusalem in the coalition to give him strength to fend off demands by the council's haredi members, who today are a majority in the coalition, Shulderman said.

Political sources said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently indicated to Olmert and One Jerusalem that he would push for the Interior Ministry to allow for an additional two deputy mayors in the Jerusalem municipality.

The ministry sets the number of

deputy mayor positions allowed on councils nationwide. Jerusalem already has eight, the most in the country.

One Jerusalem sources said the faction would only join the coalition if it received strong portfolios. The faction in particular wants the education portfolio, the sources said.

Olmert, however, held the education portfolio himself, and indicated to Zvili last week he would not turn it over to One Jerusalem.

Instead, he is offering to establish a new public works, environment or sanitation portfolio for One Jerusalem. Public works and sanitation are considered attractive, because of the large political base they provide.

Labor sources said the deal could be finalized within weeks. Likud sources, however, said it might take longer.

Rampaging students besiege Haifa U. rector

BATSHEVA TSUR

SEVERAL hundred Haifa University students went on a rampage yesterday after university authorities failed to immediately meet their demands regarding the requirements of the Economics Department.

The students stormed the rector's office, chased him out and kept him besieged in a room two floors below, until the dean intervened.

"More than 300 of us climbed 28 floors on foot to the rector's office—and believe me, it was easier to do that than to follow the Via Dolorosa of the Economics Department," Aviv Moses, who represents the

economic students on the union, said afterwards. Union spokesman Ran Hirsch said the students were motivated by the "bad results" of a previous campus demonstration two days earlier. "We cannot tolerate the university's imperviousness," he said.

During yesterday's fracas, a valuable jug and a picture were broken, university spokesperson Nana Heyman said. "The students' are certainly under a great deal of stress—the department is very competitive—but violent behavior is unacceptable," she said.

able." She added that yesterday's demonstration was totally unexpected since the rector and dean had promised the students answers to their demands by today.

The students' anger was first vented when a popular lecturer walked out of her class on Monday, saying she could not cope with such large numbers of students. The students demanded that she give an additional class. In the Monday meeting with the rector and dean, the students also demanded that they be given a second chance of getting

through the Introduction to Economics exam, in which some 40 members of the students are weeded out, instead of waiting a year for the chance to try again. They also asked that exams be shown to those who failed and extra help be given in the form of summer courses.

Yesterday, after tempers had cooled, dean Menahem Kerner again met with the students to hear their complaints. "The rector and I will speak with the students again on Sunday and we hope to be able to solve their most acute problems then," Kerner said last night.

Sarid: Punish the pot smokers, but save the Nahal group

LIAT COLLINS

"SMOKING drugs, even soft ones, is a serious offense deserving of condemnation and even punishment," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid told the Knesset plenum yesterday, responding to motions about soldiers in a Nahal group caught smoking pot in Ofakim.

"But there is no need to throw out the six group members with the dirty water, and certainly the whole group should not be washed down the drain," said Sarid.

He said the youths, who had joined the Nahal together after belonging to a Meretz youth group, are the cream of the country's youth, "but unfortunately even the best fail sometimes."

Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan, a former chief of general staff, said: "Drug use brings into question the soldiers' ability to function and

leads to the selling of weapons and their bodies in exchange for drugs. Can the existence of Nahal be justified altogether? These soldiers do not serve the purpose for which Nahal was founded. The fact that soldiers use drugs points to a wretched situation in the IDF."

Likud MK Avraham Herschson also called for Nahal to be disbanded.

Itim adds:

Jaffa Military Court yesterday remanded another three members of the Ofakim-based Nahal group who are suspected of smoking marijuana.

A total of 10 members of the unit have now been remanded, mostly based on evidence given by their peers. At yesterday's hearing, the army prosecutor said the soldiers had smoked marijuana on New Year's Eve.

Bnei Brak fumes blamed on 'poor planning'

LIAT COLLINS

PLANNING mistakes which placed industrial complexes too close to residential areas are responsible for incidents like that in which several Bnei Brak residents were overcome by fumes last week, said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid yesterday. Sarid was responding to a parliamentary question by United Torah Judaism MK Moshe Gafni on the accident, in which hydrochloric acid and chlorine fumes escaped from the Baraket factory.

Sarid said local planning and construction authorities made mistakes in the past, which his ministry continues to warn against. "Economic

considerations of interested groups often get the better of environmental considerations and the ministry's demands to prevent the placing of industrial and residential areas next to each other," Sarid said.

Factories dealing with hazardous materials are bound by the regulations of the Hazardous Materials and Business Licensing laws, Sarid pointed out. In addition, he said, the ministry and environmental units in the local authorities carry out constant monitoring and accident prevention measures, which have sig-

nificantly reduced risks, even if they have not completely erased them.

Amir Rozenblit adds: The Nature Reserves Authority will prevent drilling for oil at Har Kanaim, west of Masada, by the Avner Oil Drilling Company, the NRA announced yesterday. An authority spokesman said permission for the drilling cannot be given by the district planning commission, since the site is in the Judean Desert Nature Reserve, which is protected by law.

The planning commission is due to meet on Monday to discuss Avner's request for a drilling permit.

Gur: Iran doesn't value human life

LIAT COLLINS

DEPUTY Defense Minister Mordchai Gur yesterday told the Knesset the two main obstacles to the return of Ron Arad are "Arab culture" which is insensitive to human life, and the refusal by Western countries to use economic influence against Iran.

Gur was responding to several motions to the agenda regarding German press reports of new evidence that the missing navigator is being held in Iran.

He denied that Israel had received any new information on Arad, but said Israel believes he is alive.

"There are two main obstacles to achieving results. One is found in the internal, Arab, Persian, Moslem culture which is less sensitive to human lives and is prepared to play with them," Gur said.

"We can't understand it. There is a real cultural gap. Unfortunately even with the peace process under way, in this regard there is no change. We often find ourselves fac-

ing a thick wall."

He also said there is a problem at the international level. "There are large countries with flourishing economies which are not prepared to use their influence in this direction. It also almost impossible to get the Western world to put a real embargo on Iran."

Gur stressed that no scrap of information, no matter from what source, was rejected without being checked.

Likud MK Ovadia Eli accused Germany of using the tragedy to cover its own commercial ties with Iran and its aid to Iran's nuclear development.

Meretz MK Ran Cohen called on the Knesset to remember the five soldiers who are still missing in Lebanon. Moledet MK Rehavam Ze'evi accused the government of not putting pressure on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to use his ties to bring the MIAs home as part of the negotiations.

5-year business loans for olim

JOSE ROSENFIELD

NEW immigrants establishing small businesses will be entitled to Absorption Ministry entrepreneurship loans of up to NIS 25,000 during their first five years in the country, the ministry announced yesterday.

The ministry extended the entitlement period from three years in recognition of the fact that soon after their arrival, immigrants are not prepared to establish a business.

Those applying for the loan are required to develop a business plan with the assistance of their local Small Business Development Center. According to Absorption Ministry Business Entrepreneurship Division head Uri Hurwitz, the loan is part of an overall program to give immigrants the managerial skills to succeed.

Loan recipients must invest a third of the money for the business, or about NIS 15,000, although they usually invest more, said Hurwitz. The loan is at an index-linked 2% or at 4% linked to the dollar. As an incentive for full repayment of the loan, 20% of it, or up to NIS 5,000, turns into a grant after three years.

Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban said the program creates jobs at low cost compared to other employment programs. According to Hurwitz, these small businesses create 1.5 jobs in the first year and 2.5 jobs after three years.

In 1994, 600 immigrants participated in the program and the ministry estimates a potential for 15,000 immigrants.

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NATO chief: Germany won't change policy toward Iran

GERMANY will not change its policy toward Iran, despite criticism from Israel and the United States, NATO secretary-general Willy Claes, of Germany's Socialist Democratic Party, told Iranian television yesterday.

Claes said Germany was determined to continue talks with Iran and to pursue cooperation with it. He stressed that "despite the fact that relations between Germany and Israel and

America are good, we cannot allow any obstacle to weaken our relations with Iran."

He added that though America believes that Iran supports terror, there is no proof of this.

Claes said Moslems and Christians needed to engage in a dialogue because of the negative perceptions of Islam in the Western media.

Russia has also said it would continue its relationship with Iran, regardless of the pressure from the US.